

# Urusei Vatsura



Story & Art by RUMIKO TAKAHASHI



## Urusei Vatsura

Part 5



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### CHAPTER 1: SAKURA SENSEI, ENCHANTED BLOSSOM















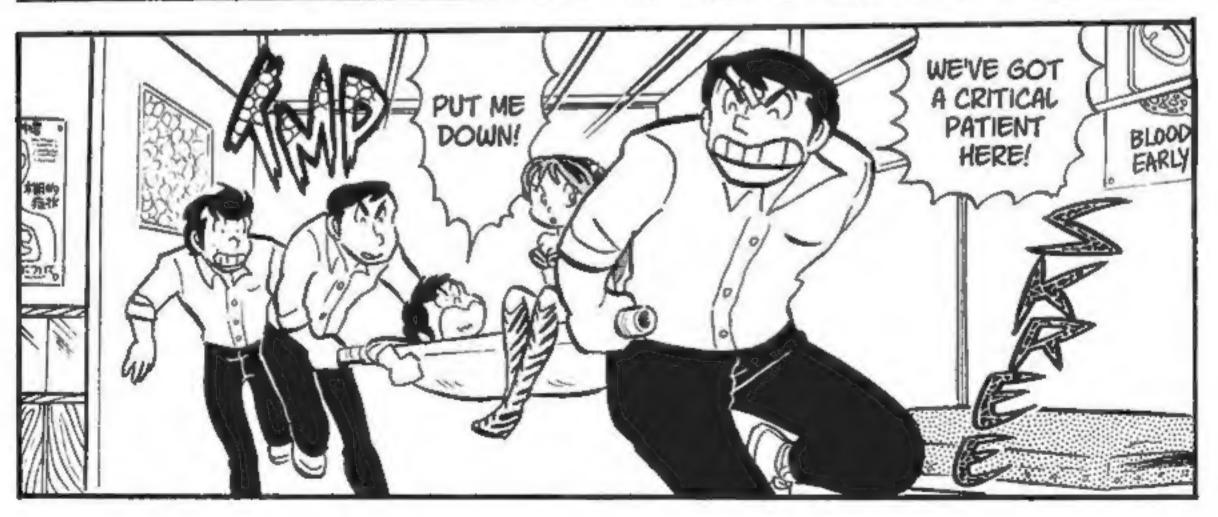














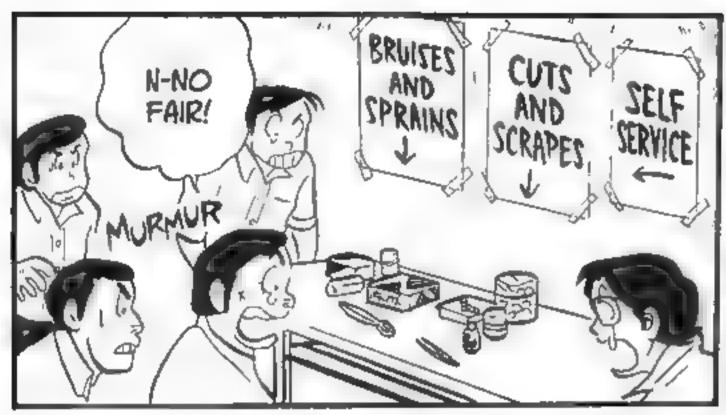




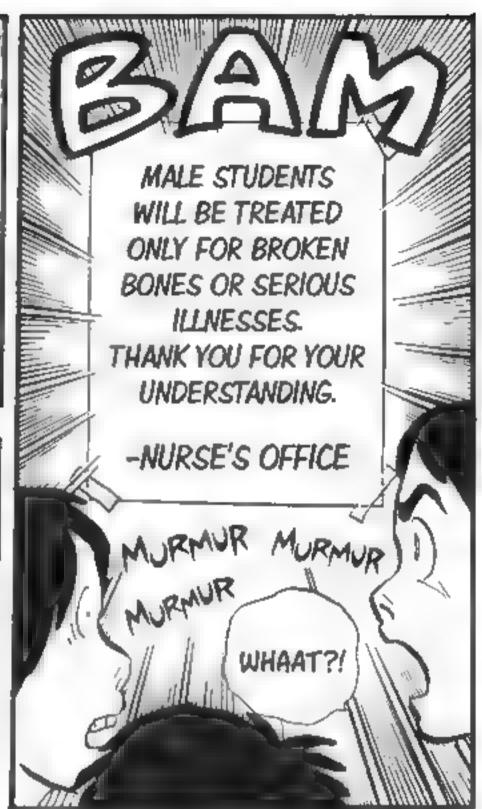




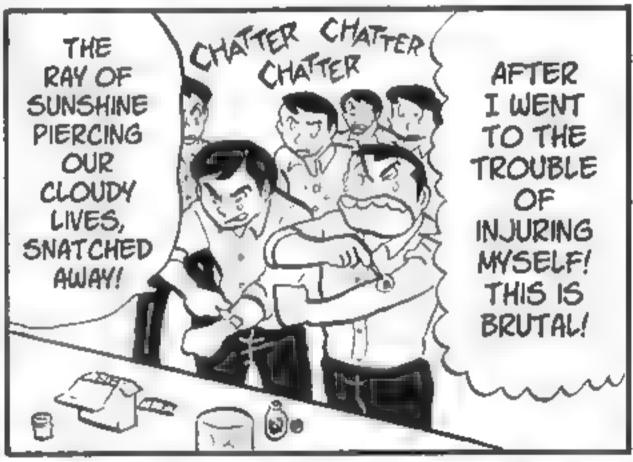


















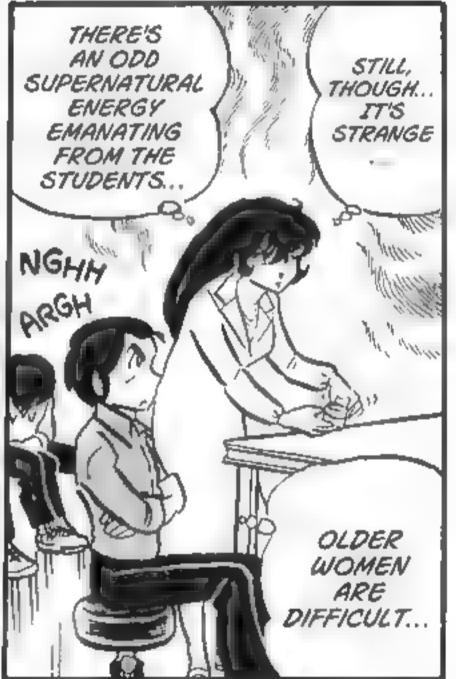






























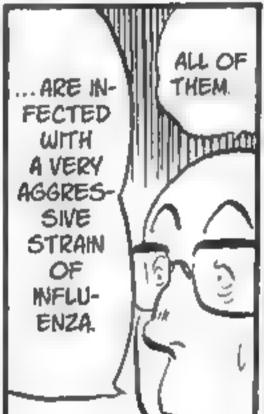




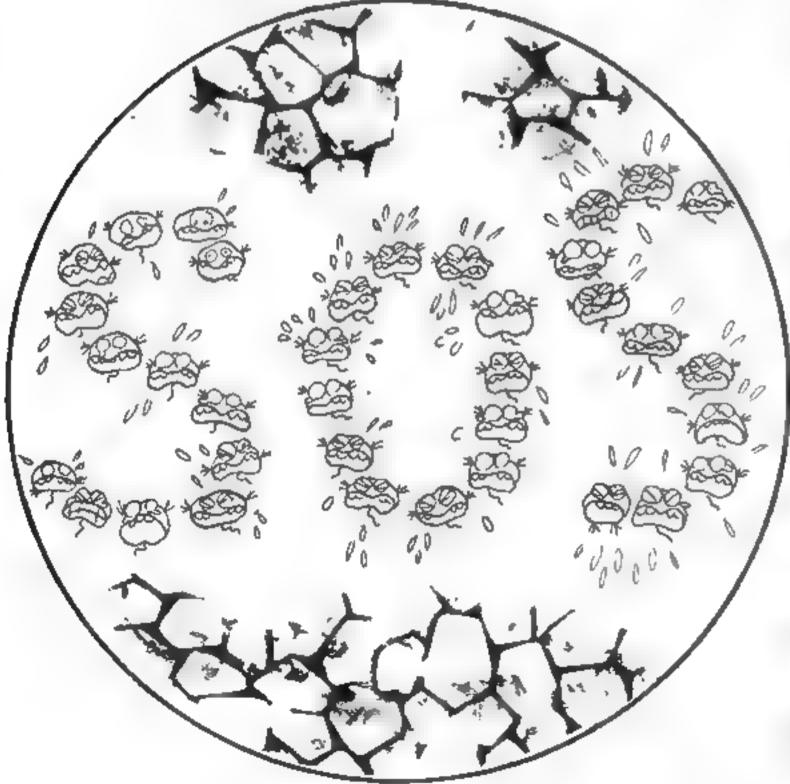








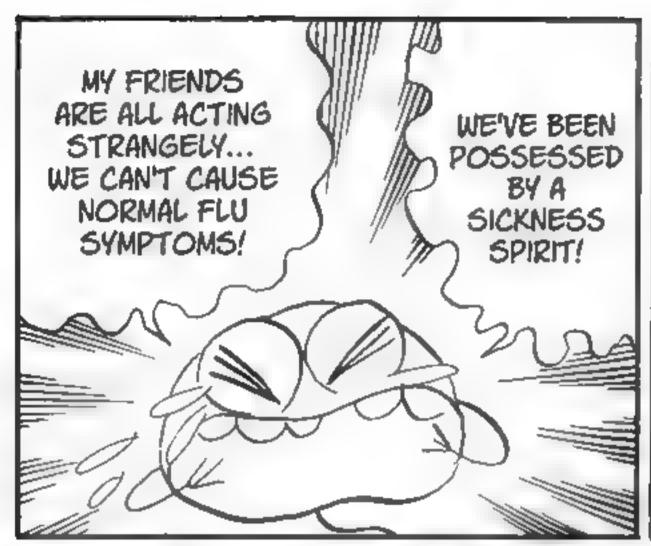




























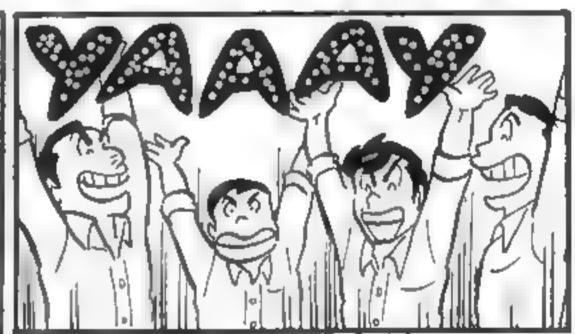














## CHAPTER 2: EVERYBODY IN THE RAIN







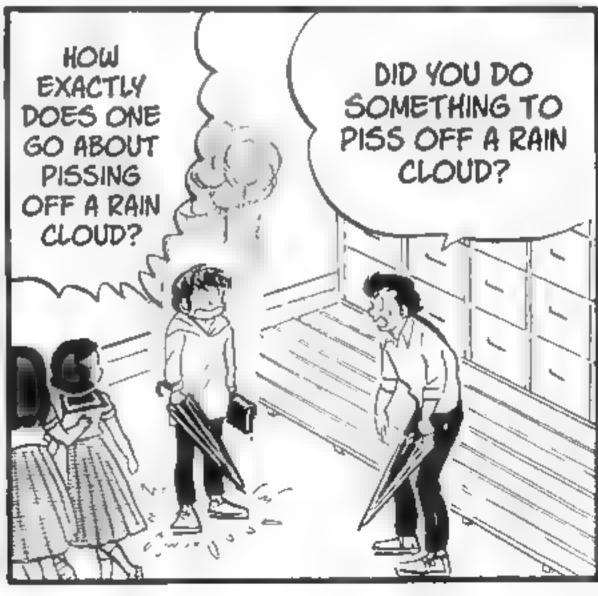








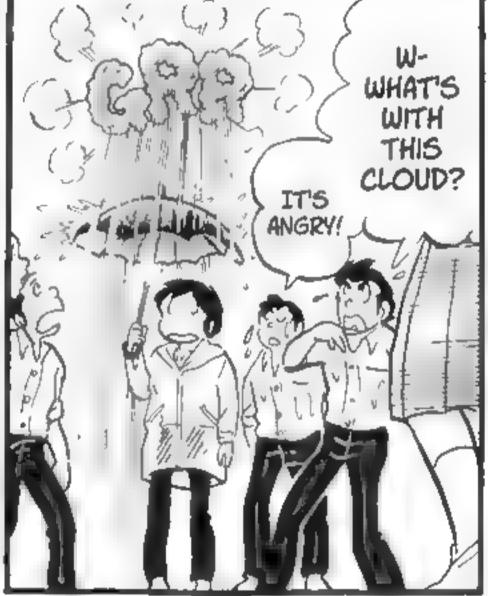










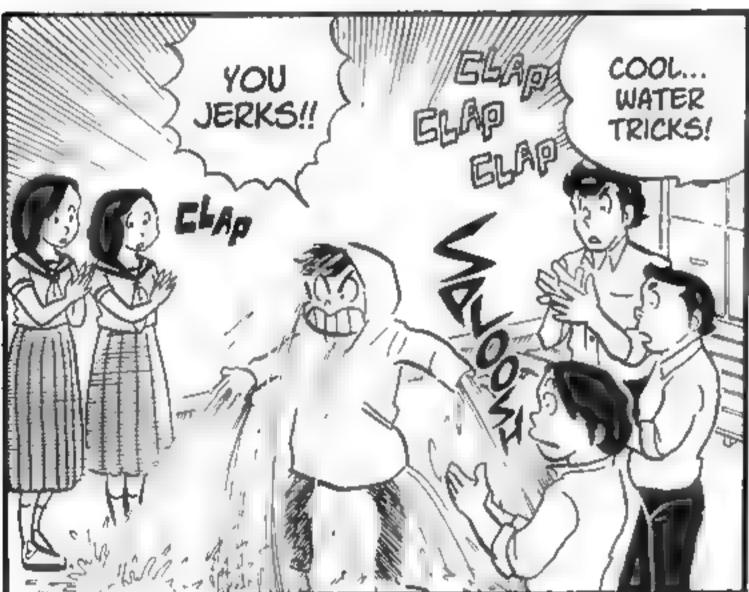




























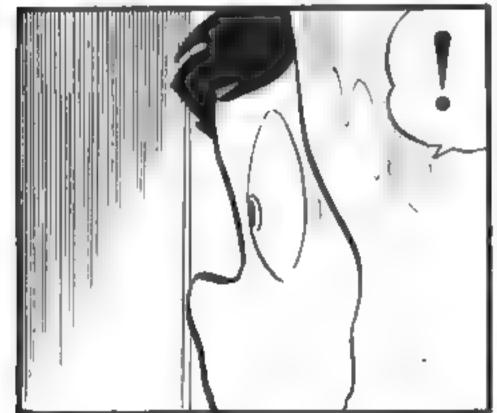












































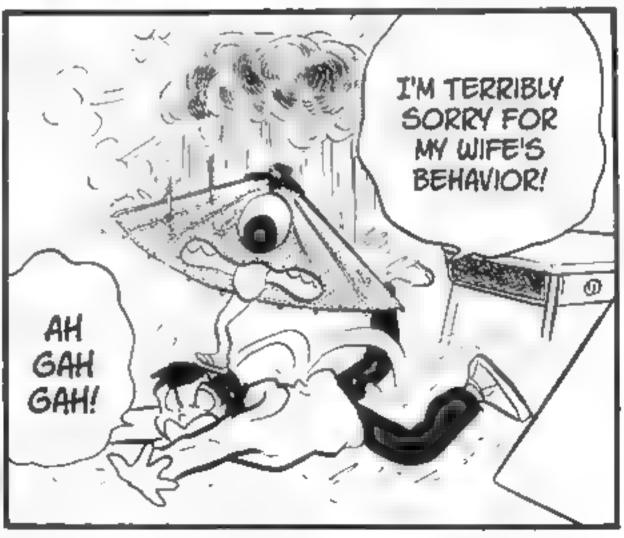






















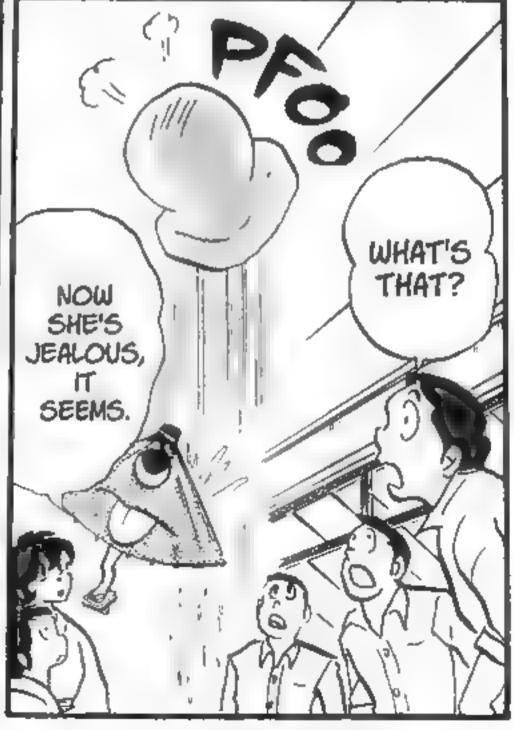
















CHAPTER 3: GHOST STORY: XEROX MAN























WELL,

I THINK

GROVELING

LIKE A TOAD

WHENEVER









LUM!



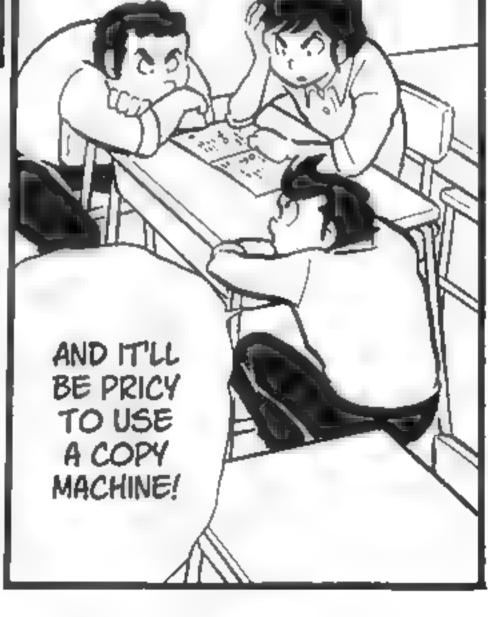


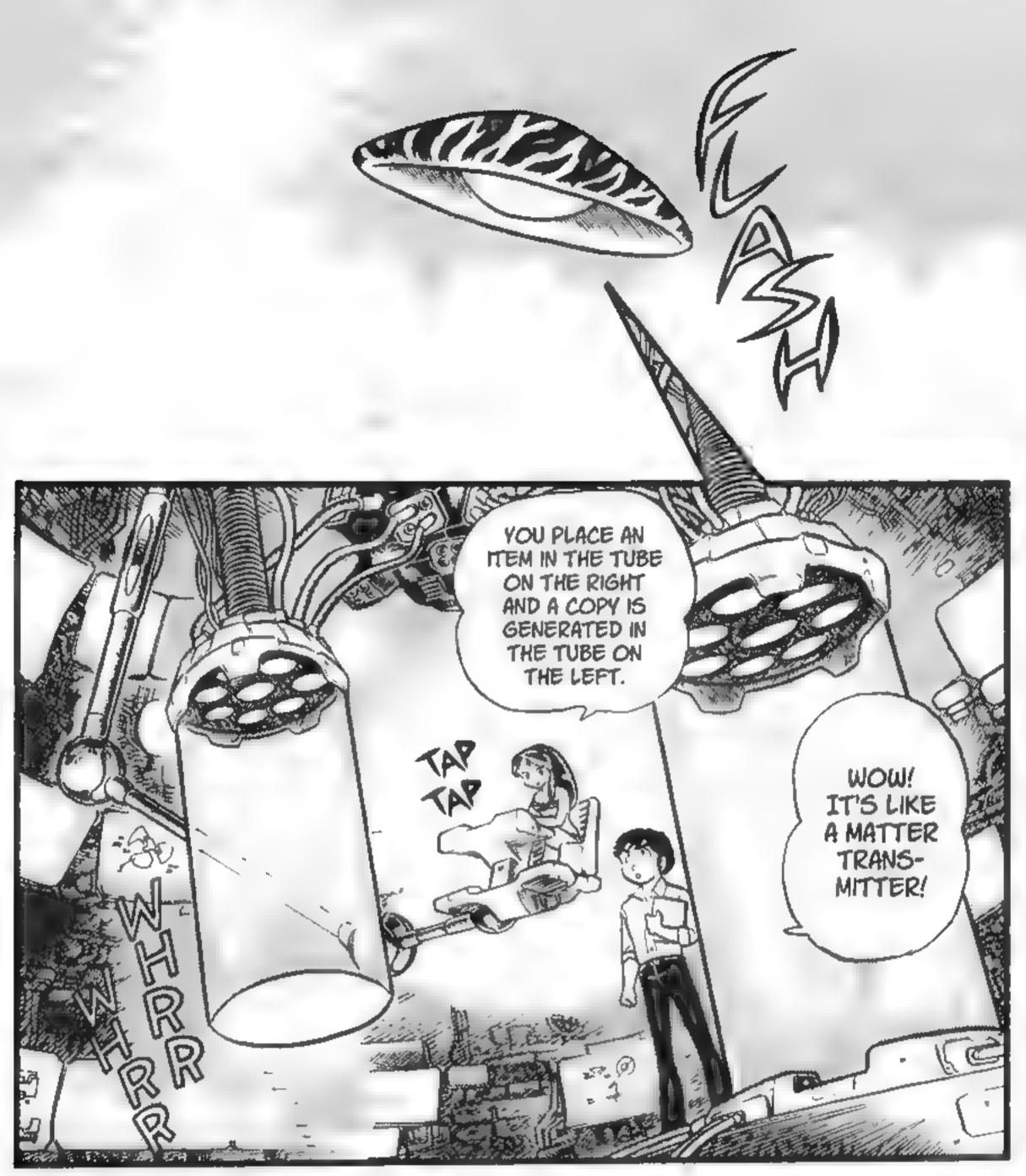
THIS IS



WE'LL
NEVER
FINISH
COPYING
IT ALL
BY
HAND!

MAN, CAN YOU
BELIEVE HOW
MANY PAGES THIS
IS? AND HOW
DETAILED?



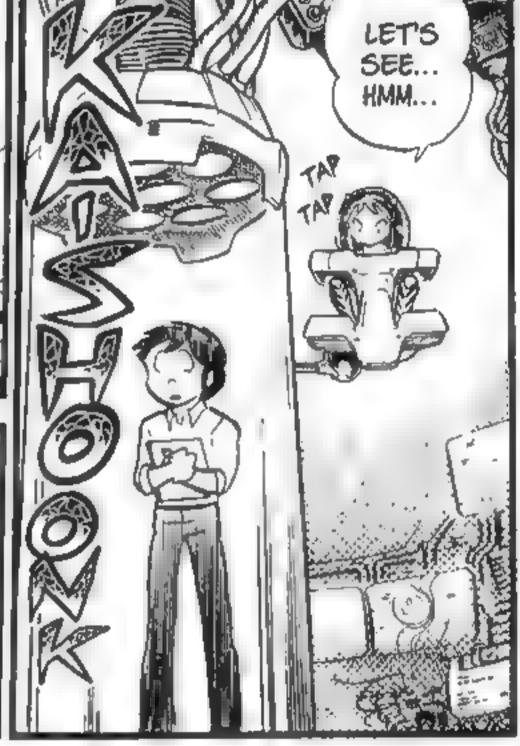








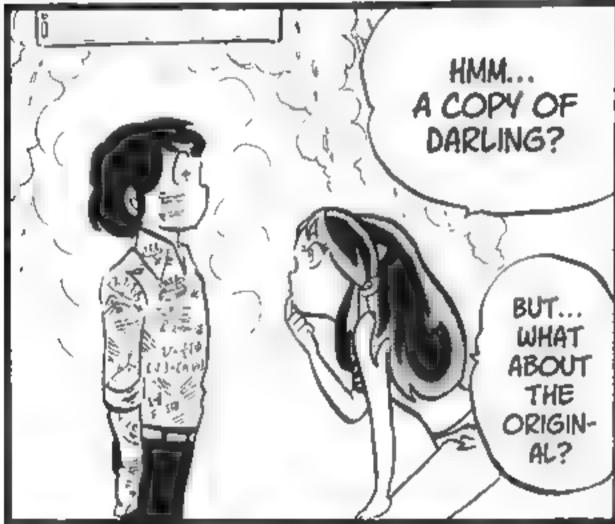


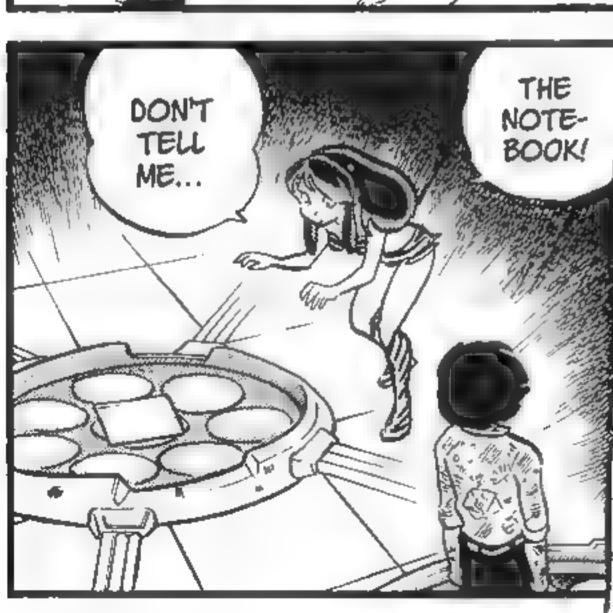


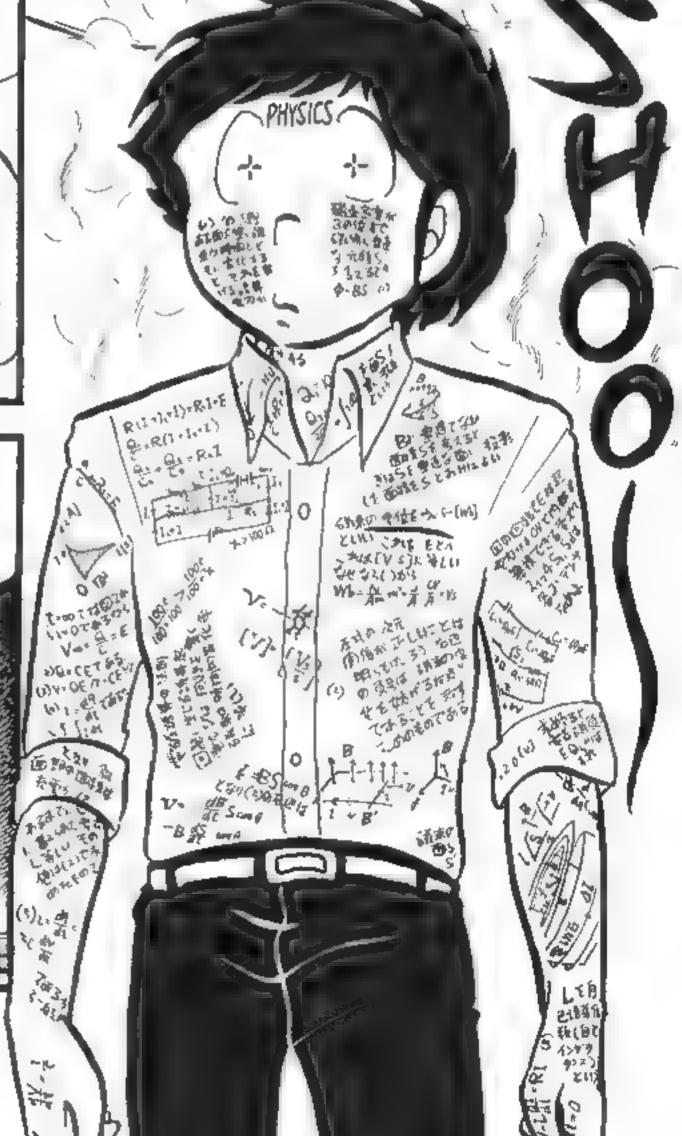


















IN OTHER WORDS, THE ORIGINAL AND THE COPY BOTH GET SCRAMBLED!

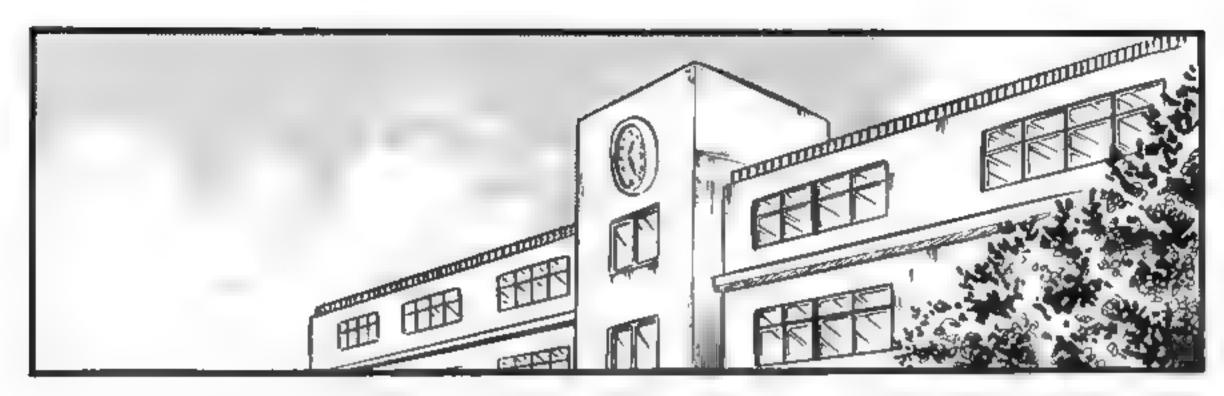


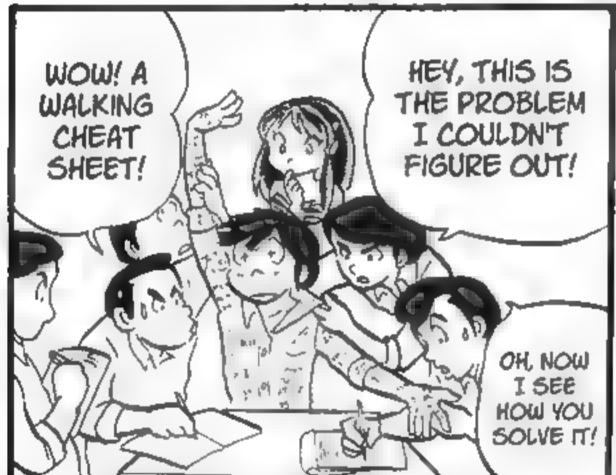
THE COPY MACHINE
MALFUNCTIONS WHEN
YOU INSERT TWO
ITEMS AT ONCE!





















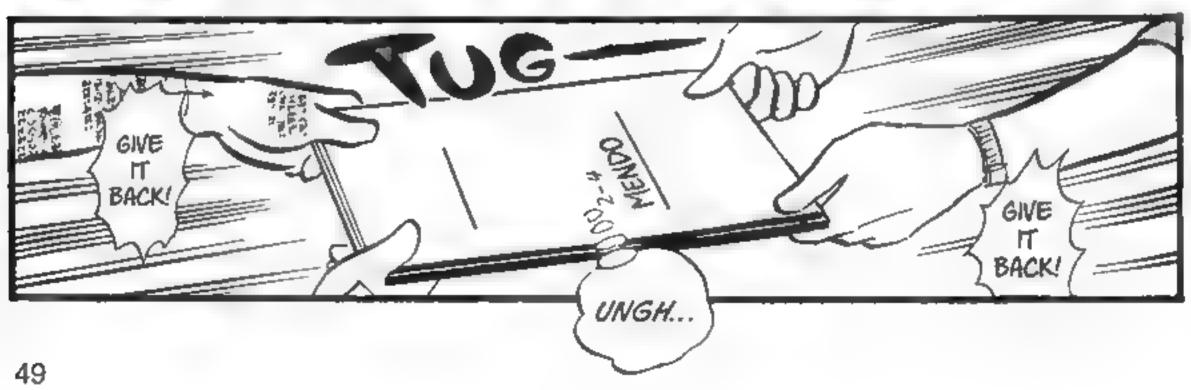
























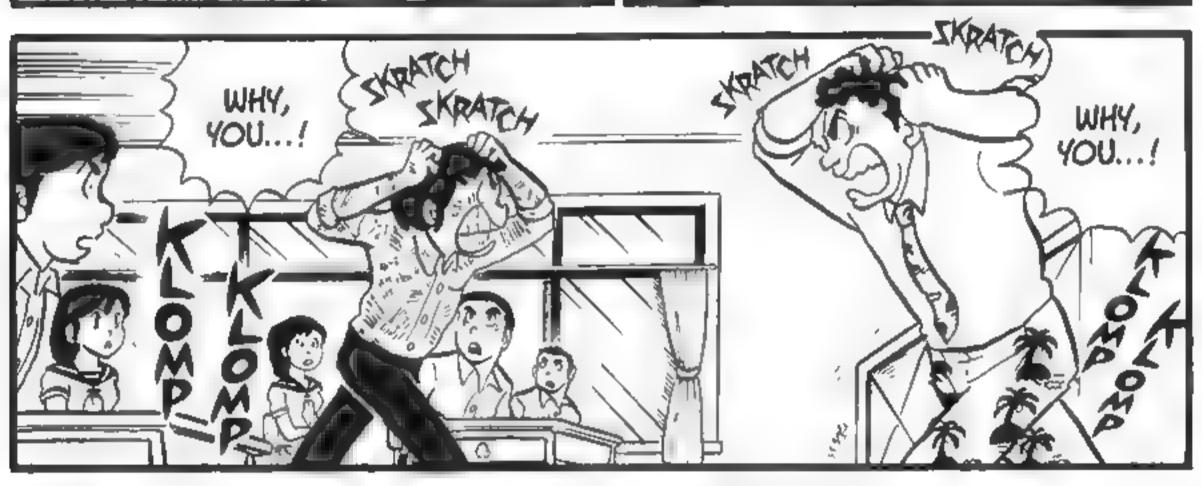


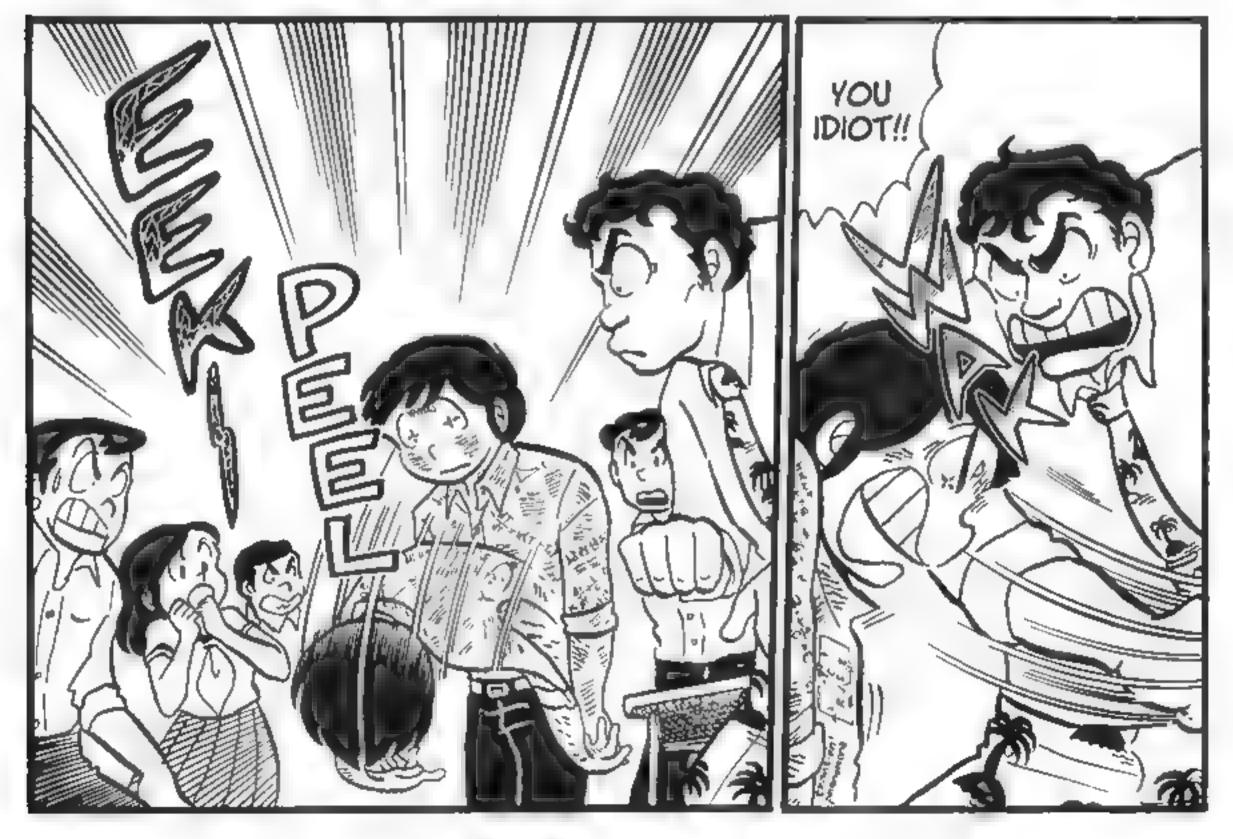








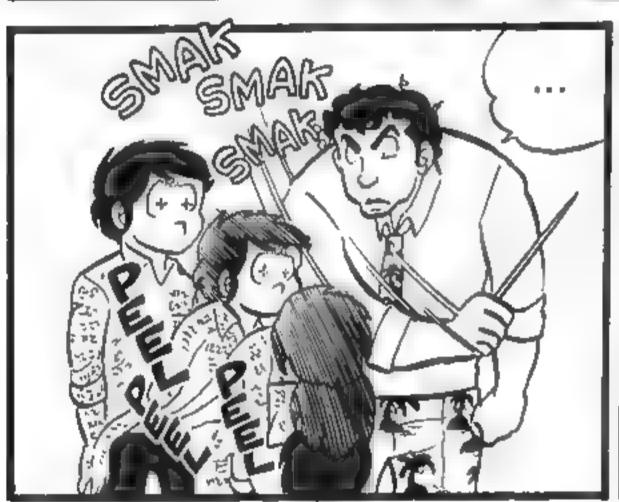




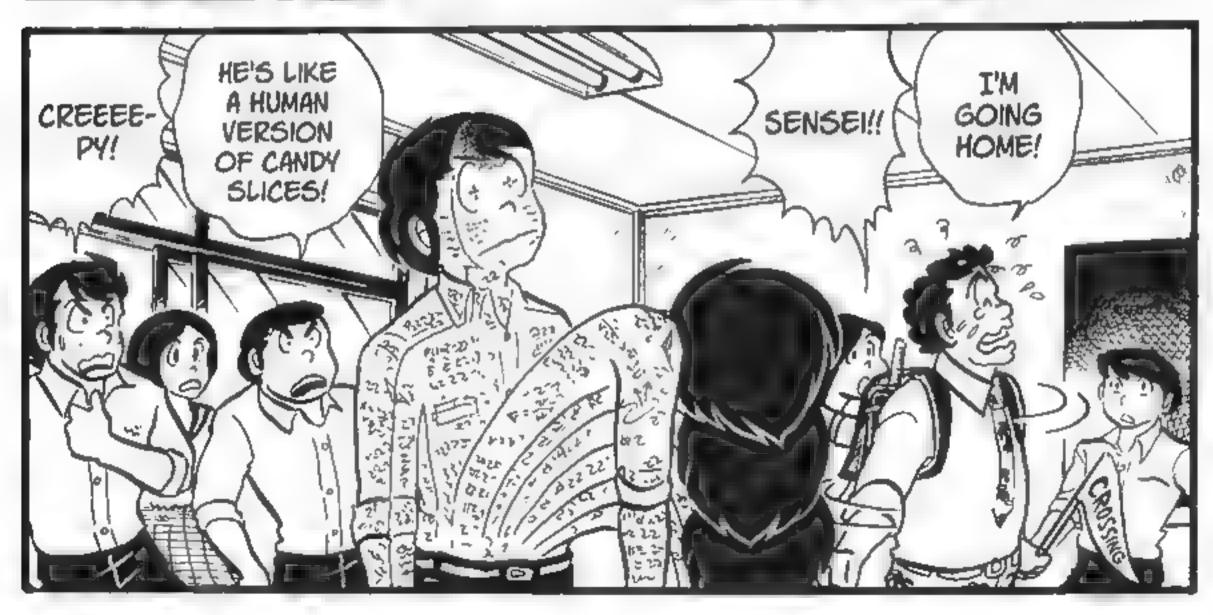




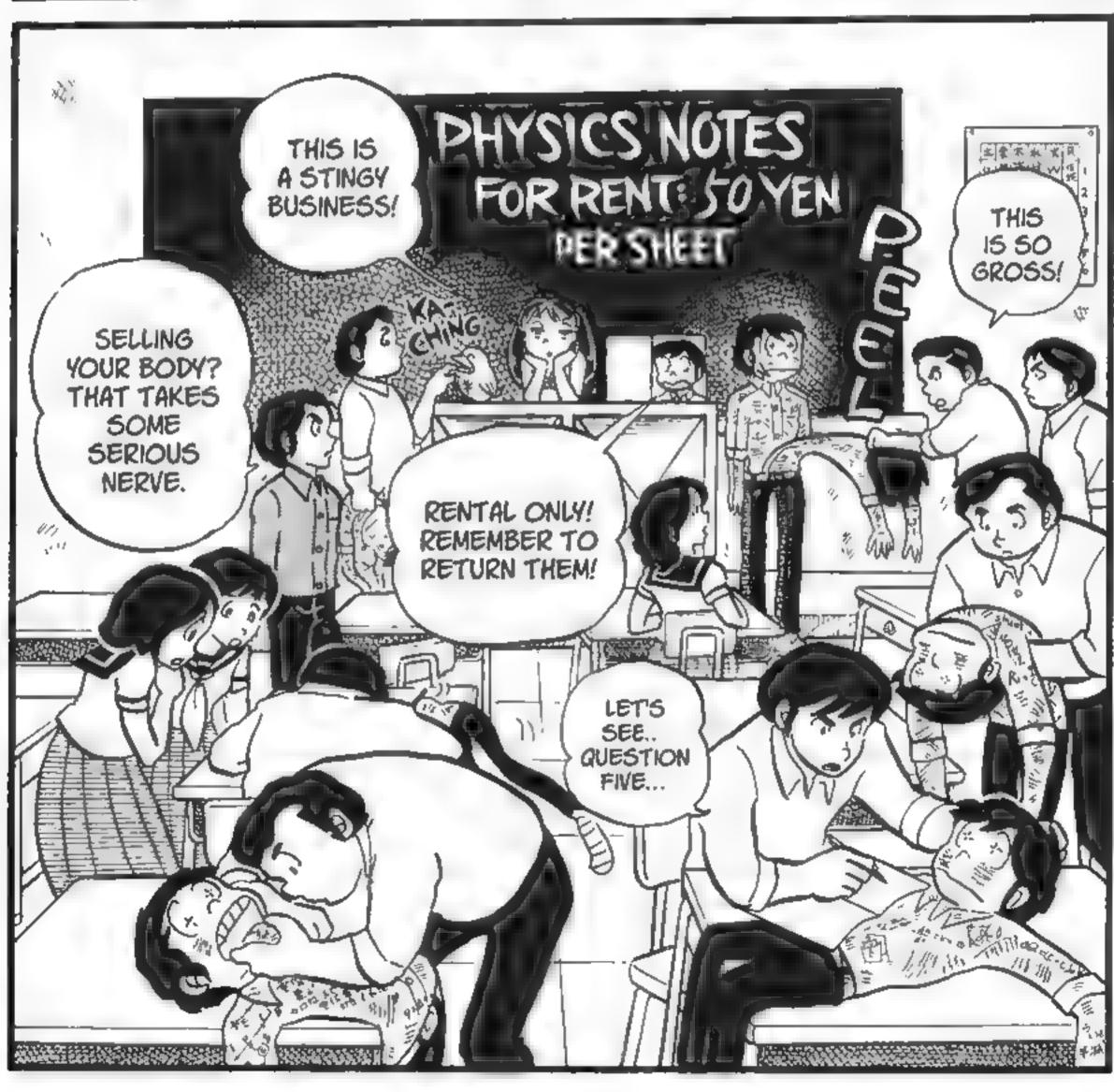












## CHAPTER 4: YOUTH DEVOTED TO THE WHITE BALL























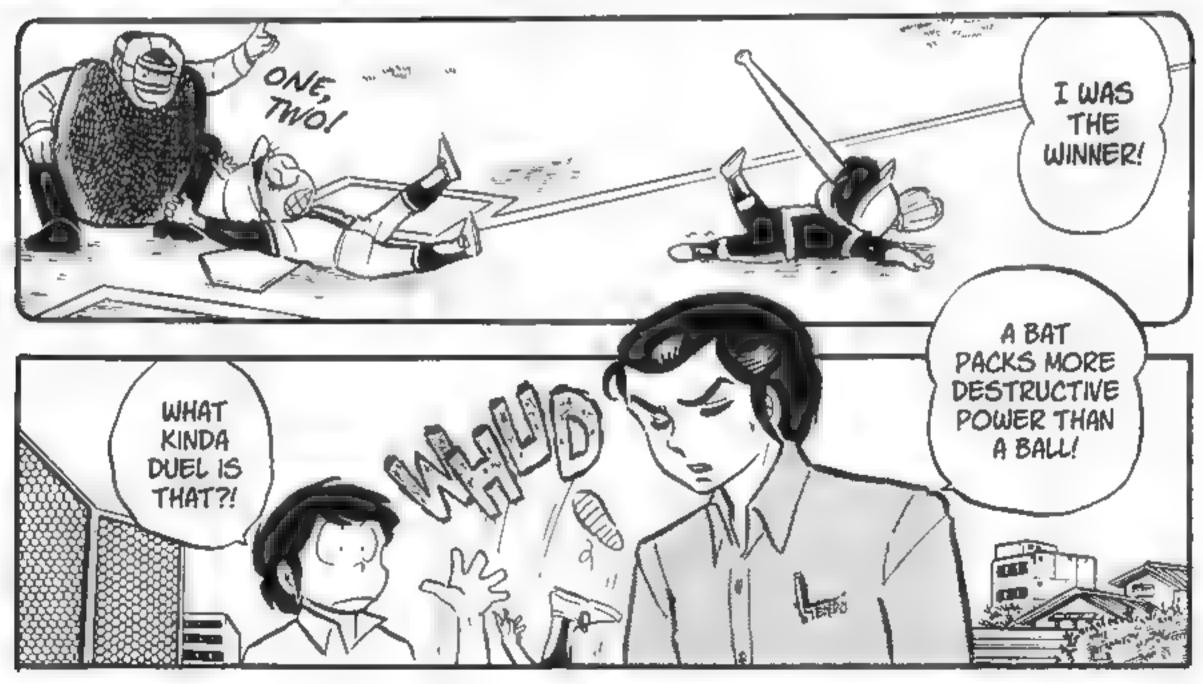






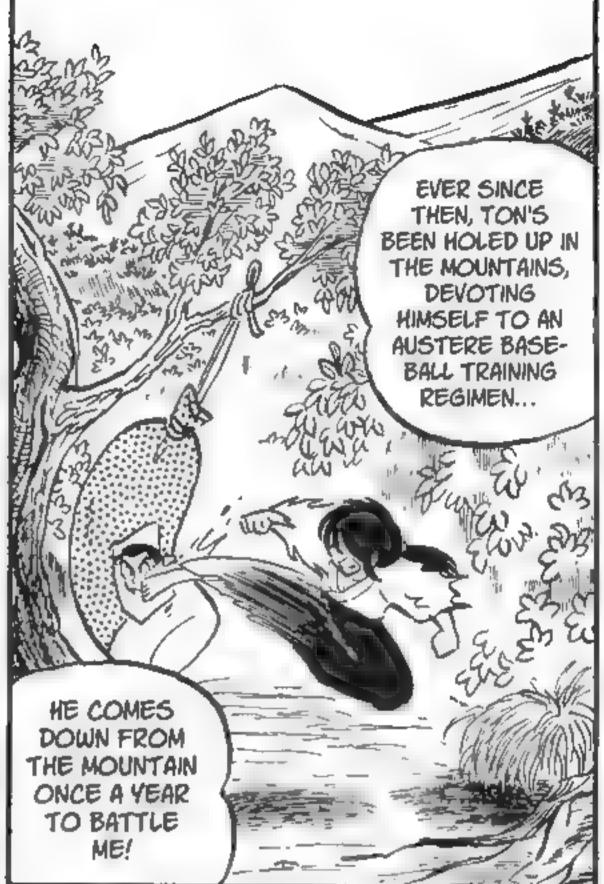




























































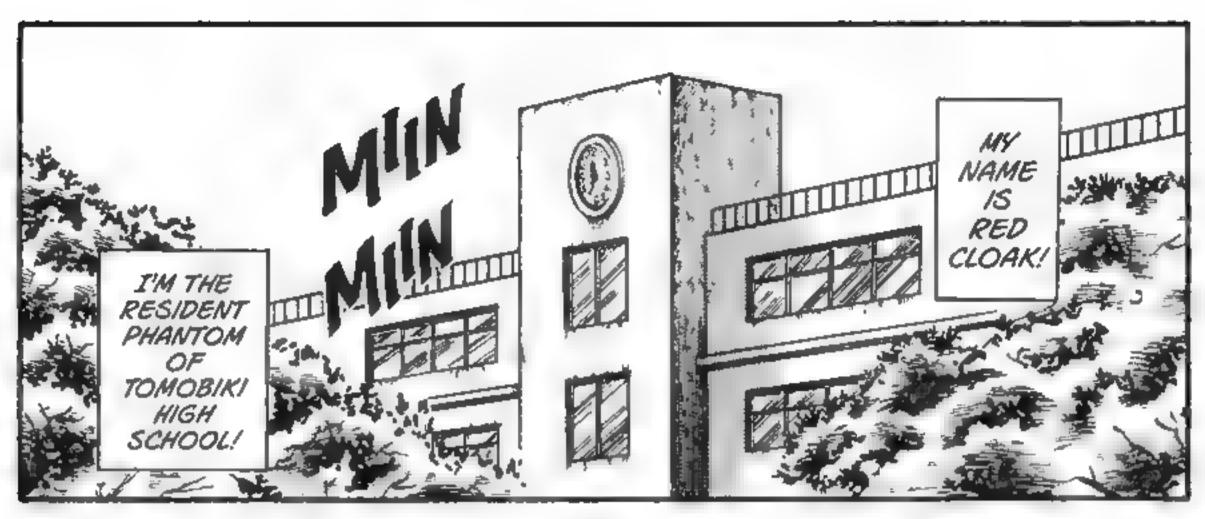


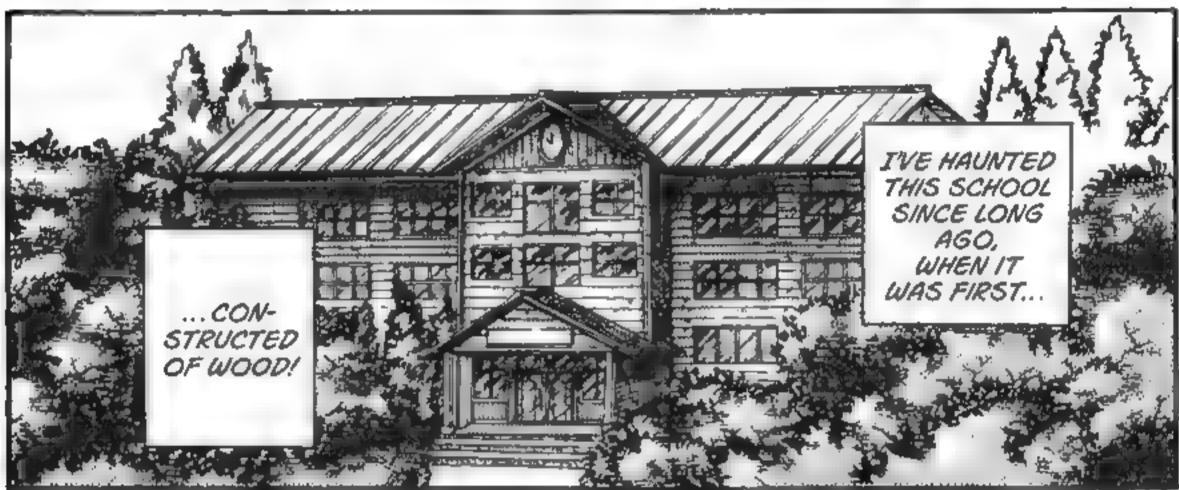




CHAPTER 5: THE RED-CLOAKED PHANTOM

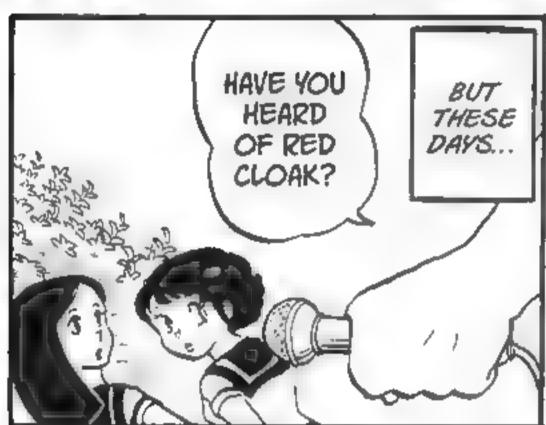










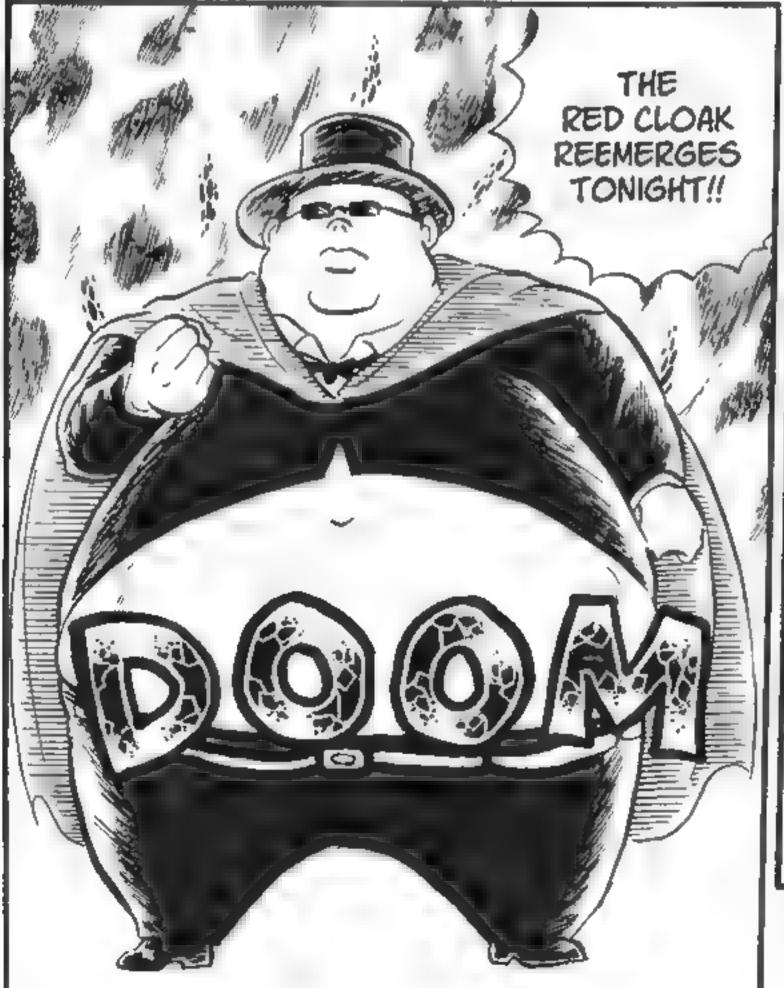












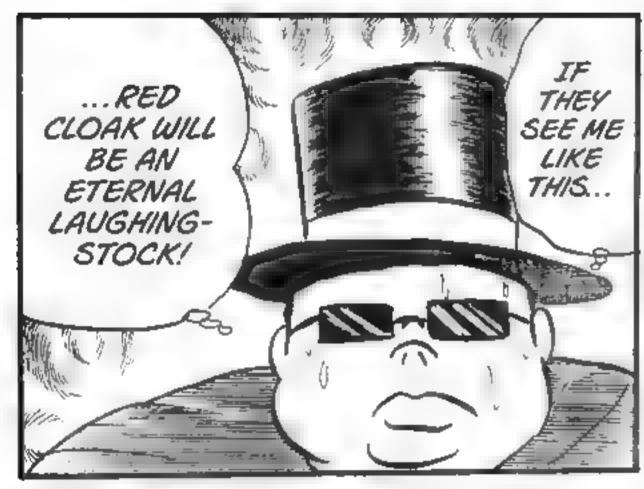






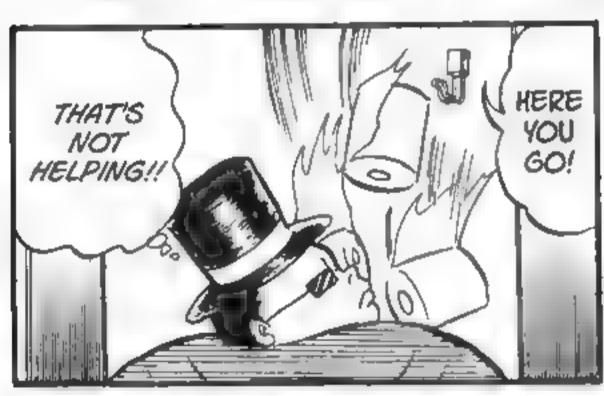












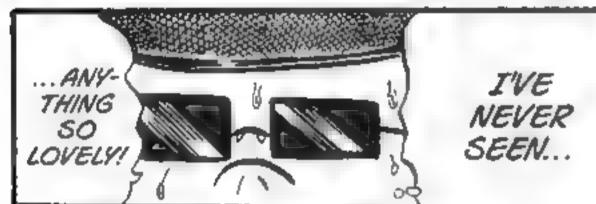












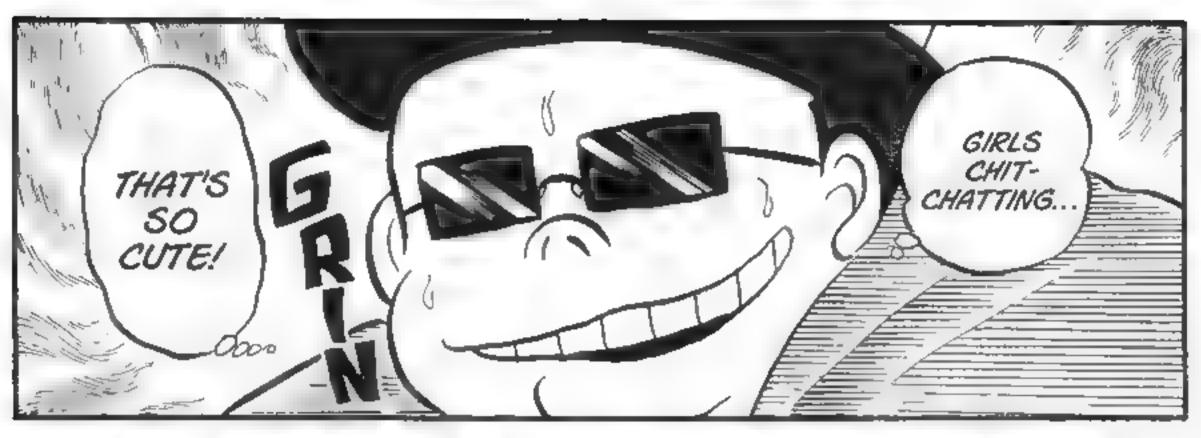




















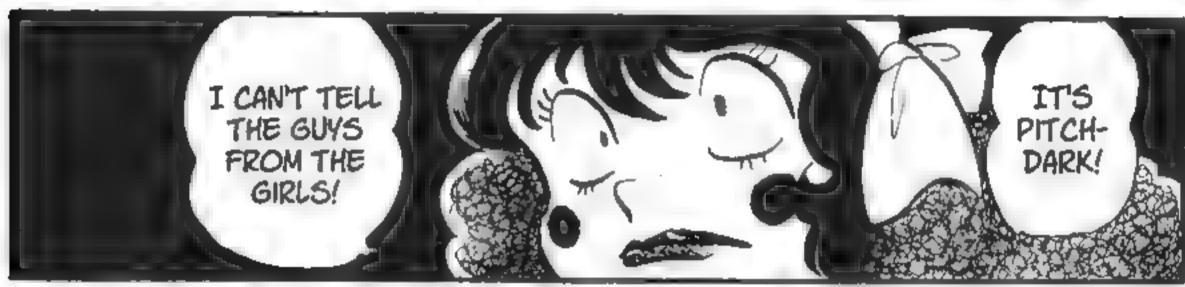




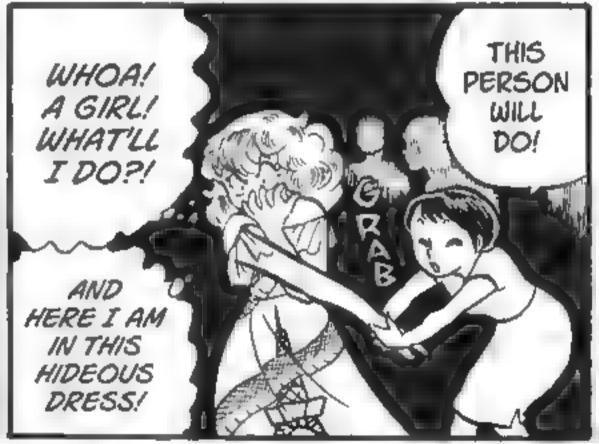


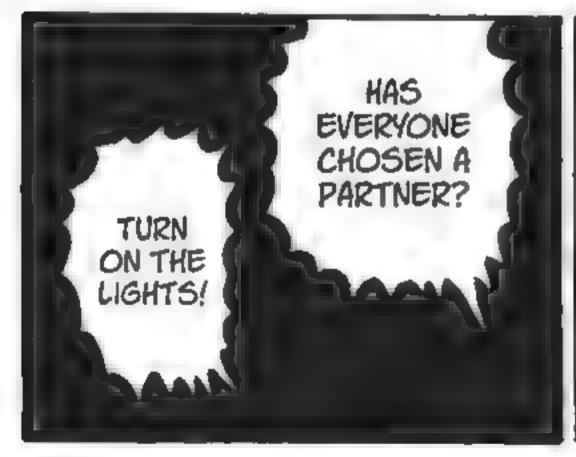


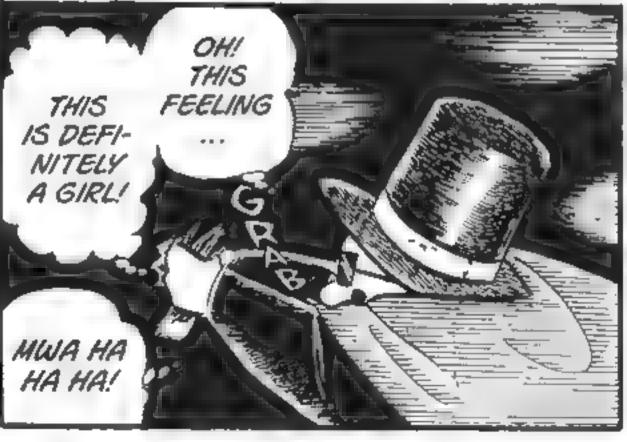






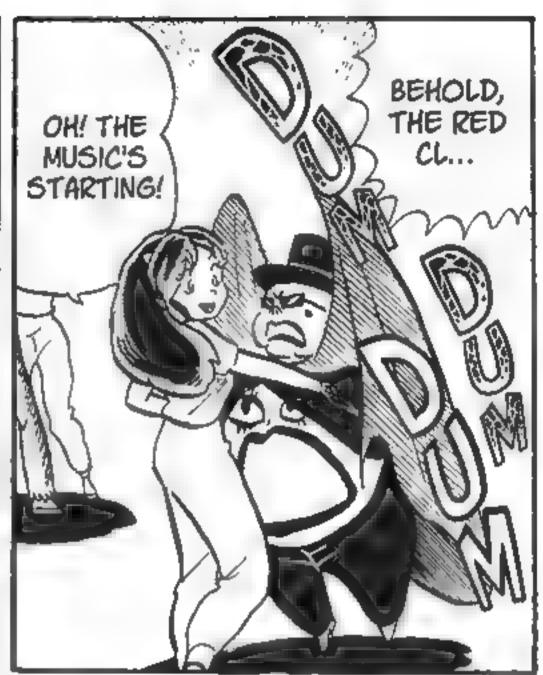


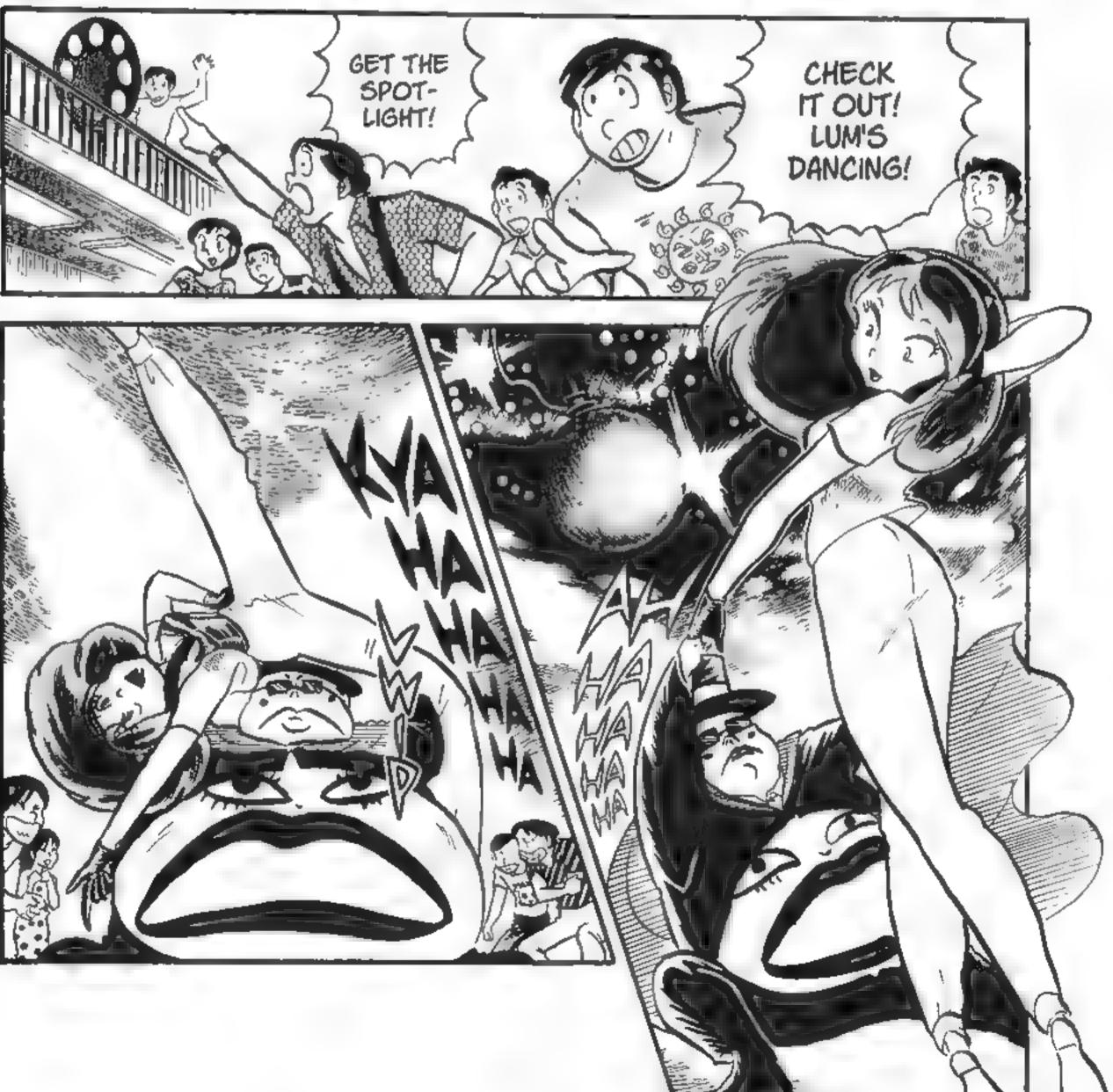


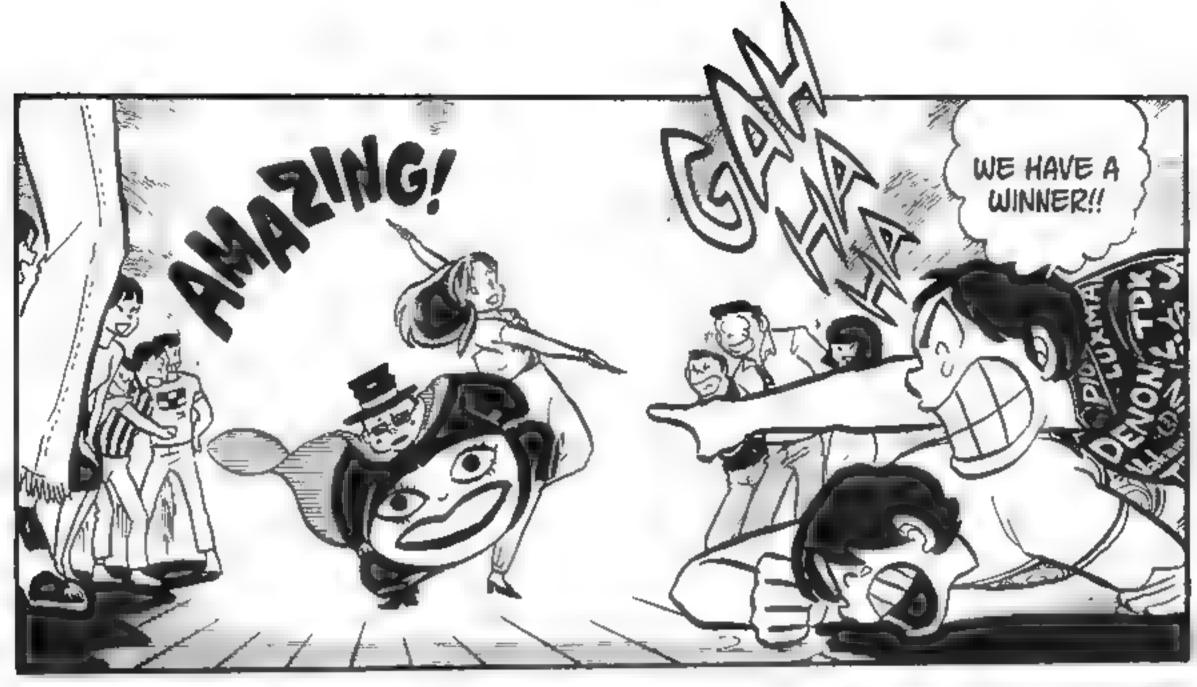












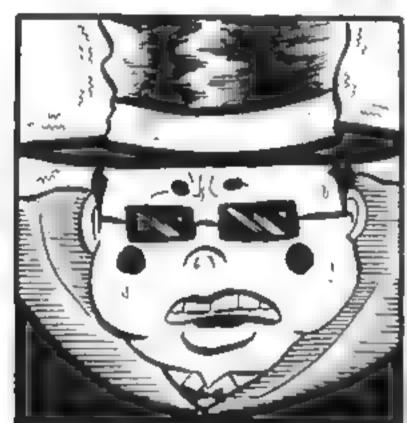


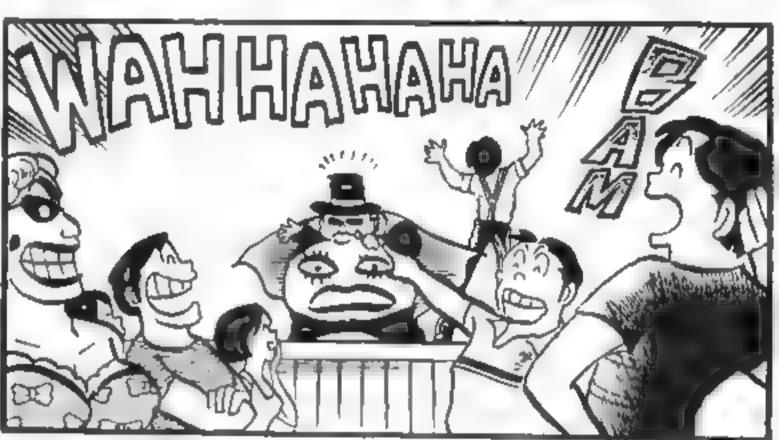






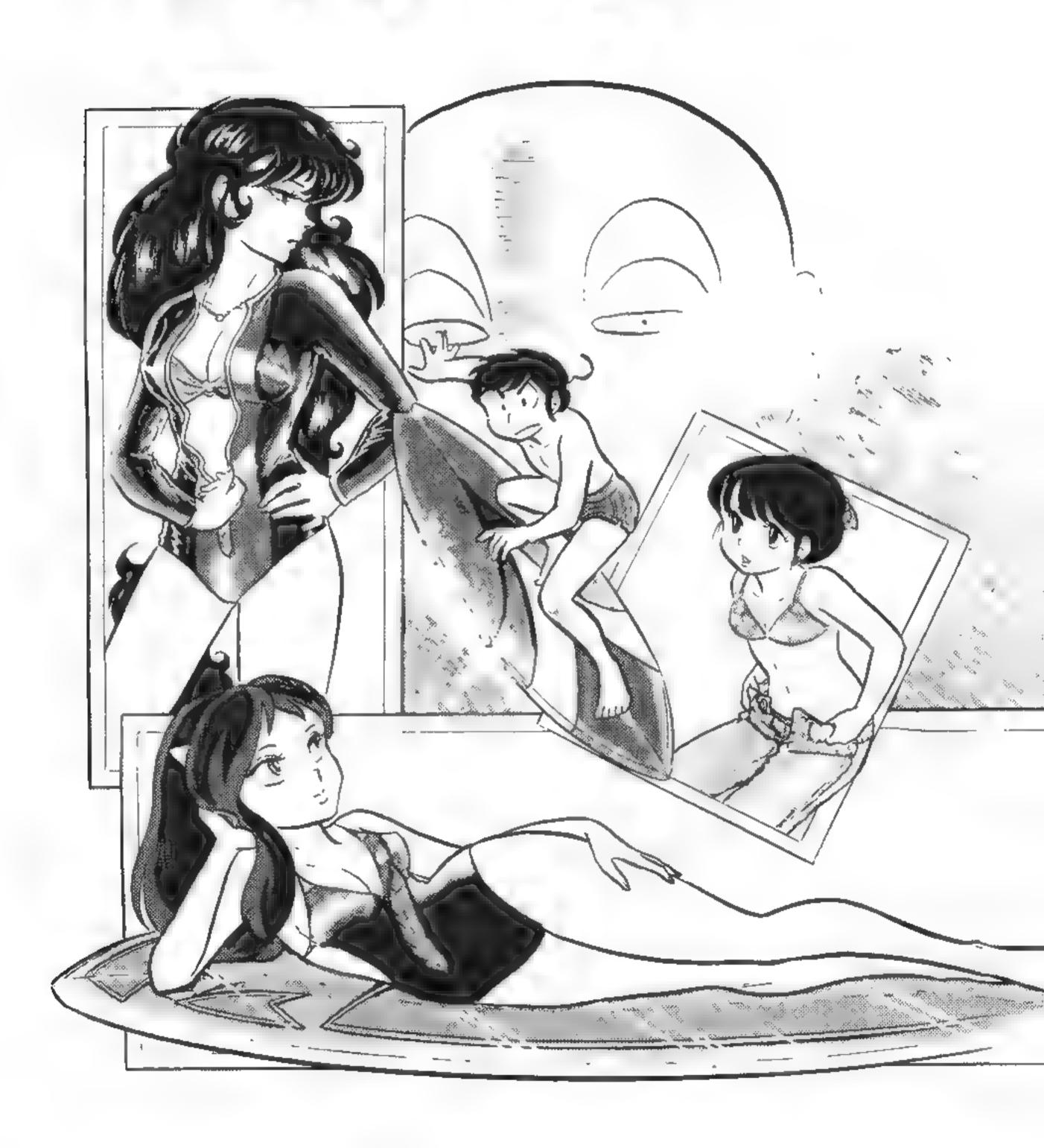






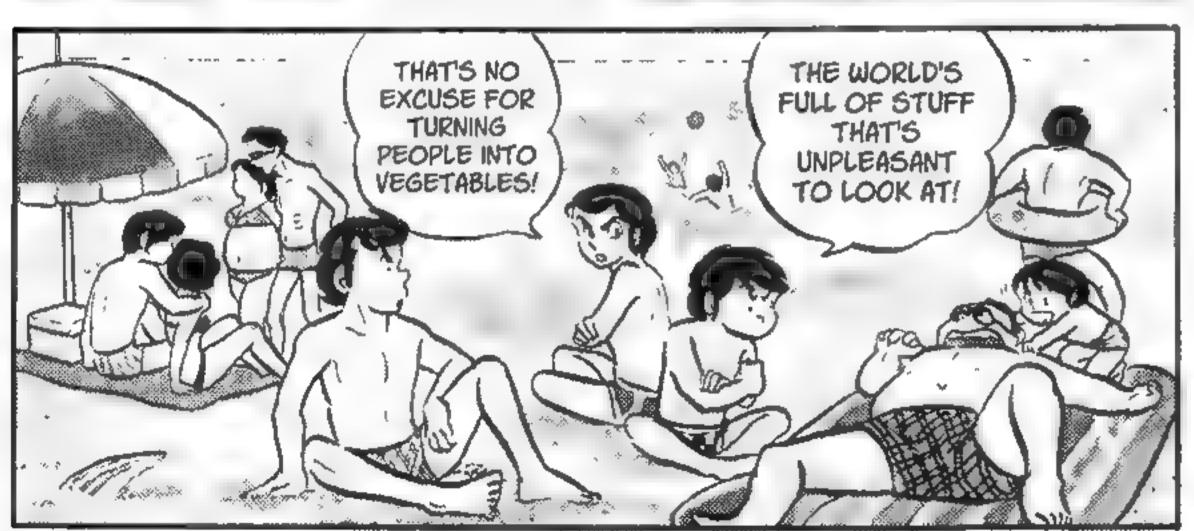


## CHAPTER 6: SURFIN' SOS



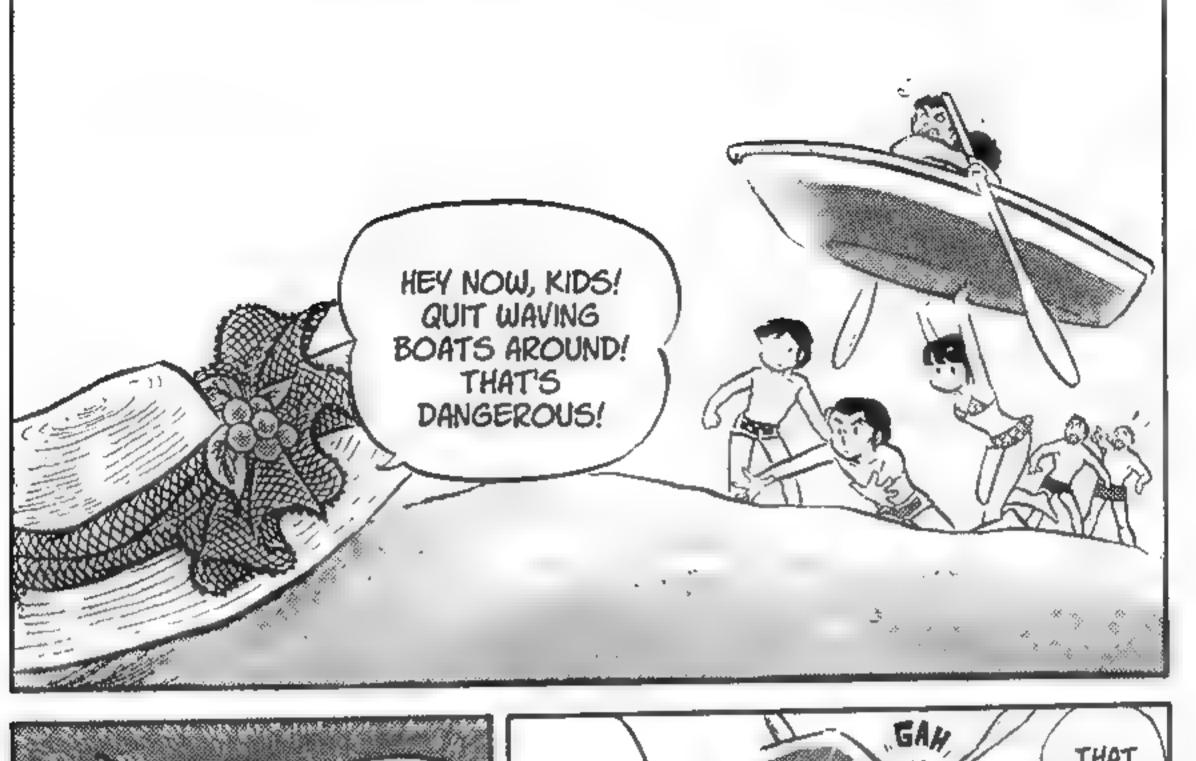


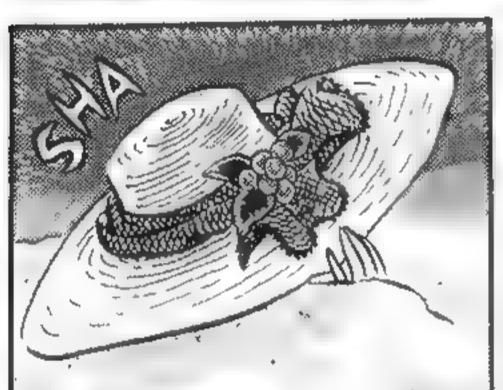






















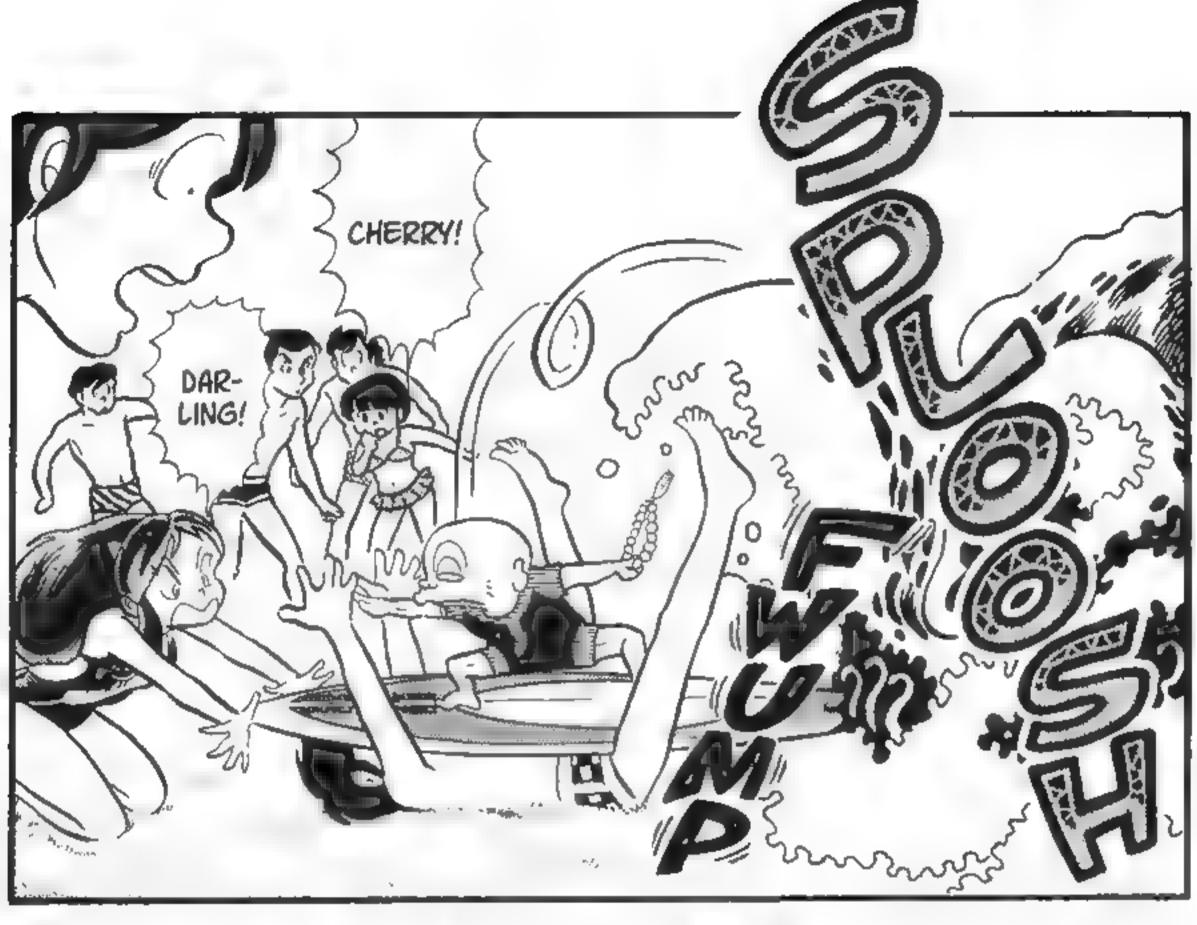






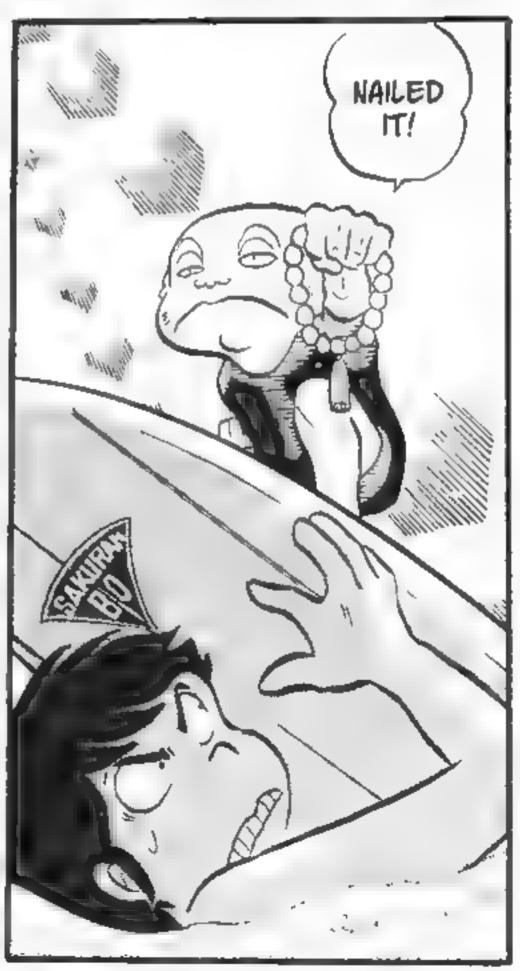












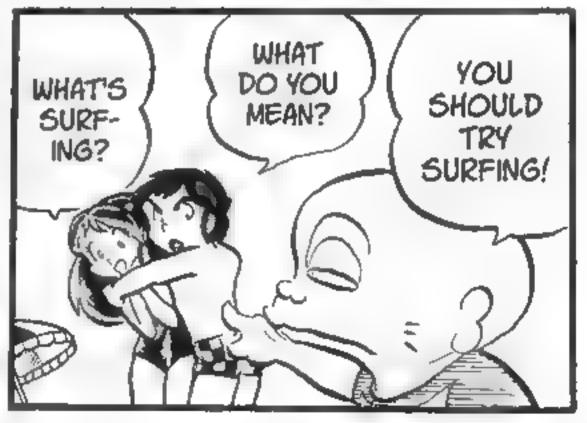


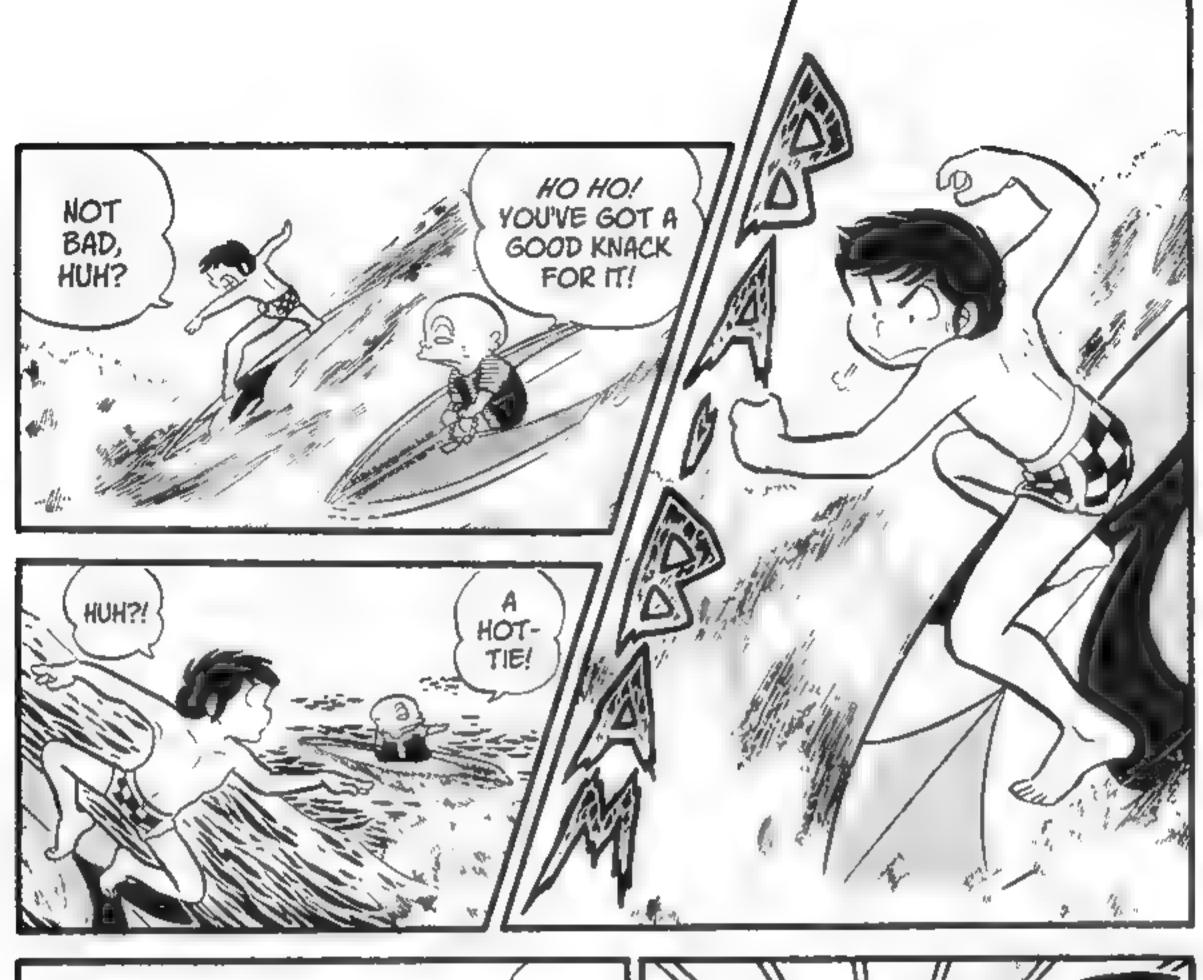


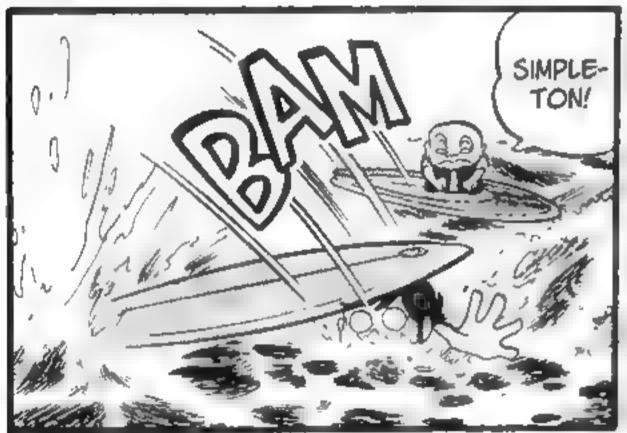


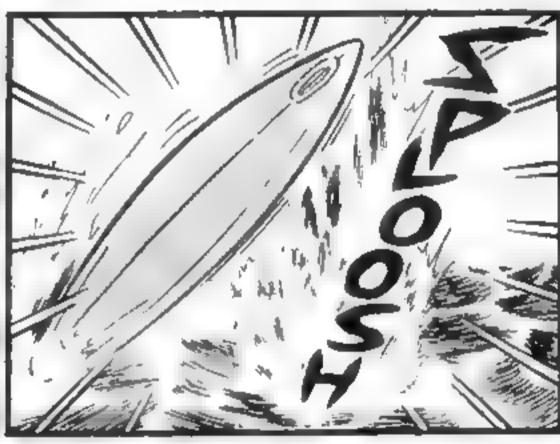


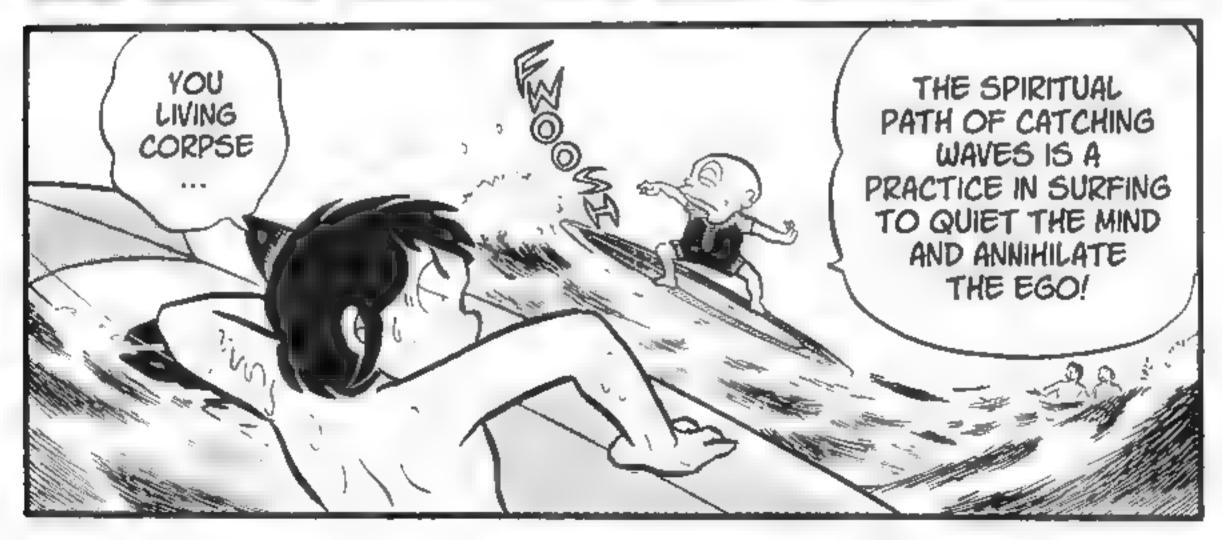




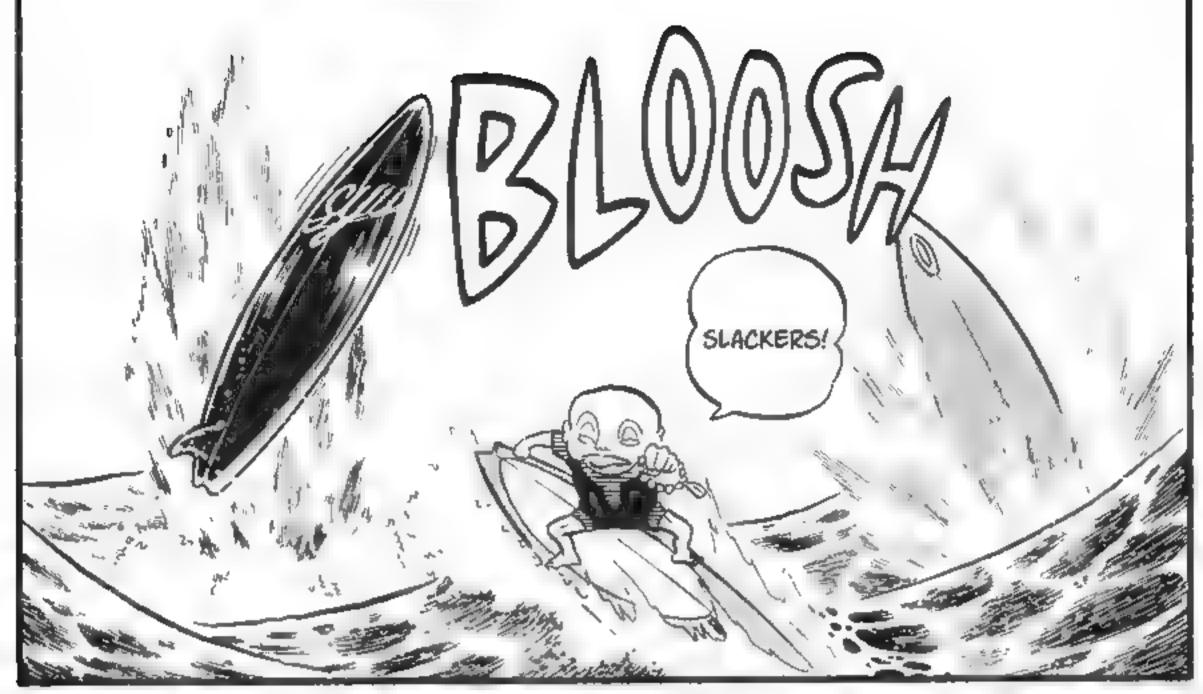












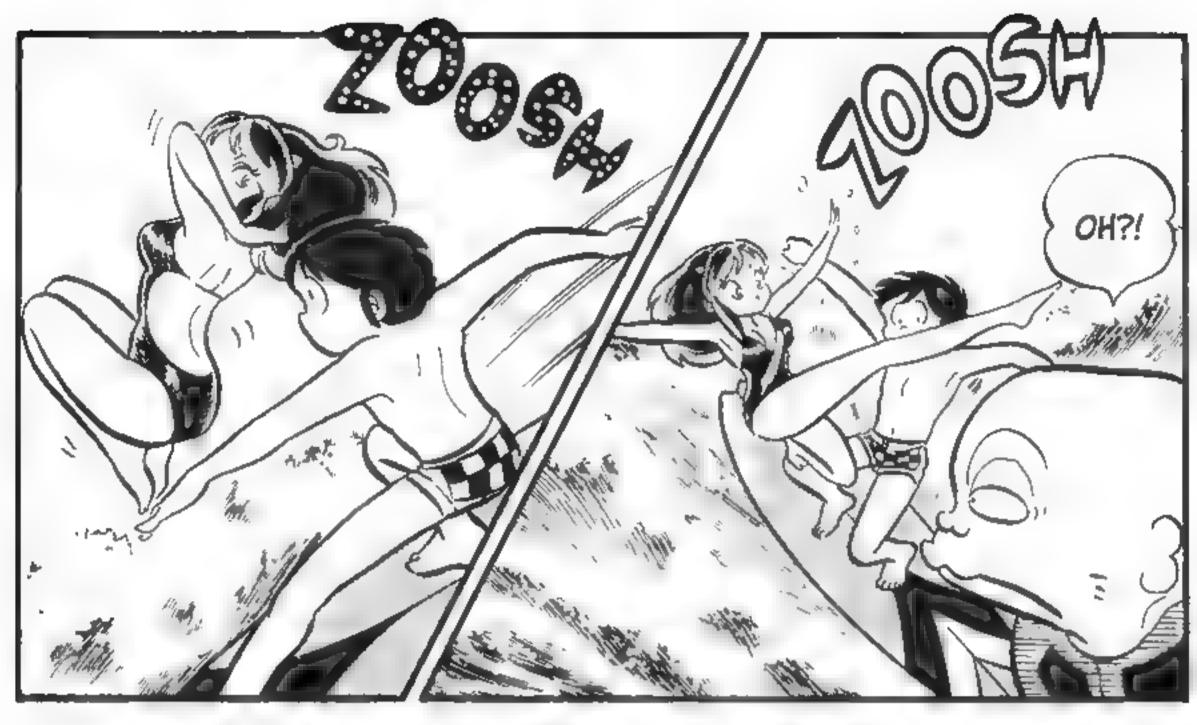






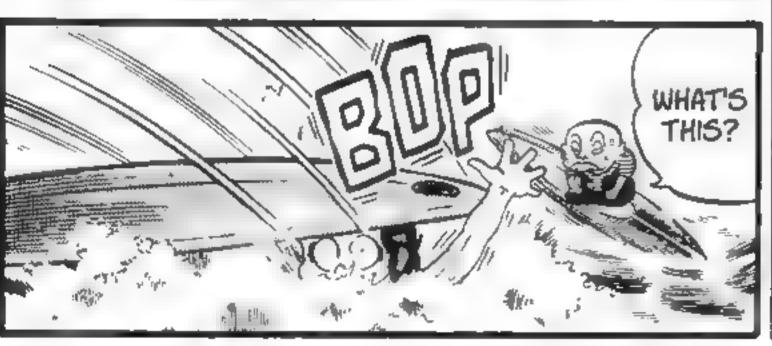


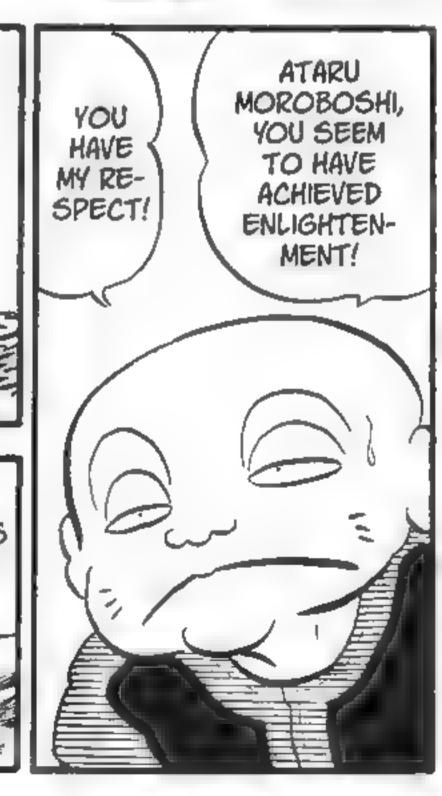
















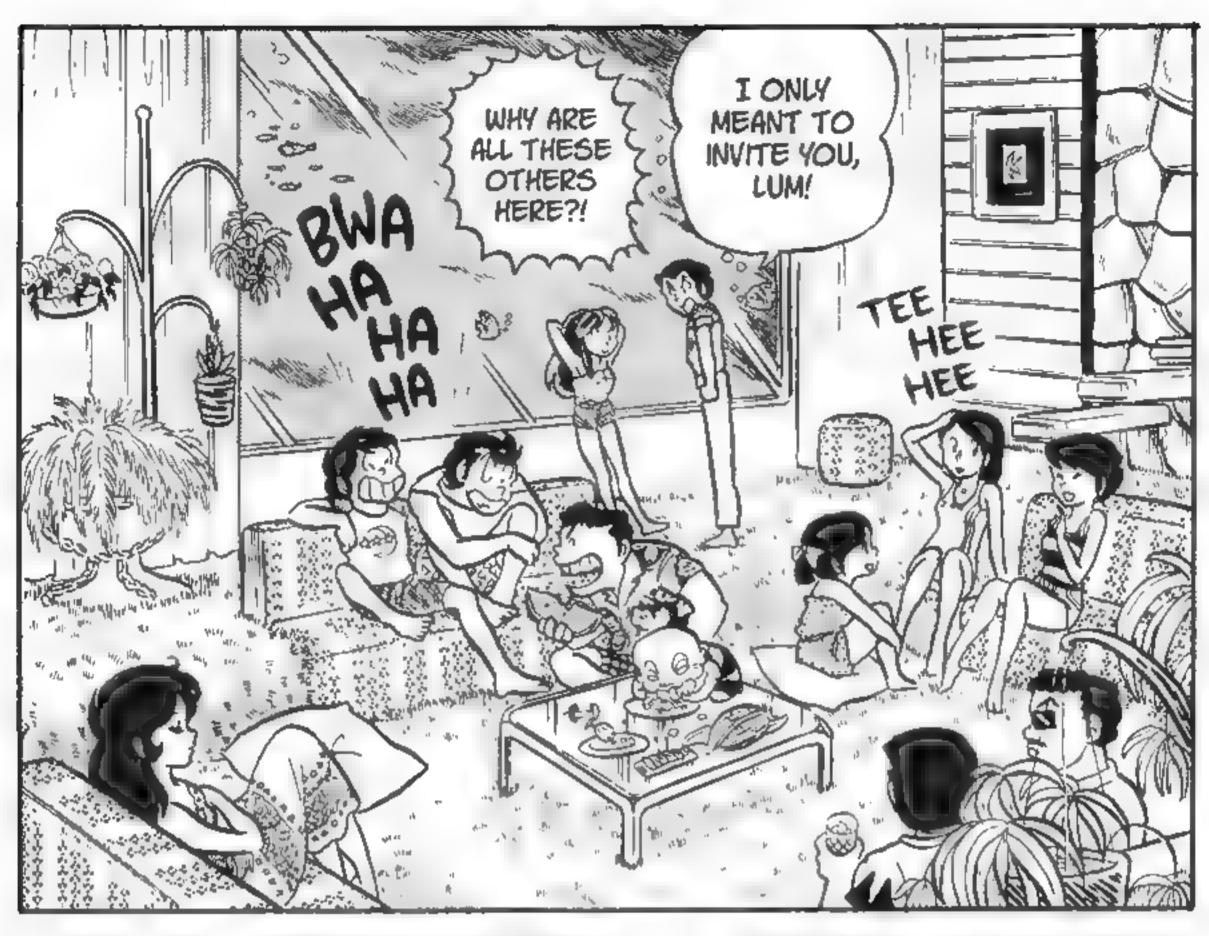


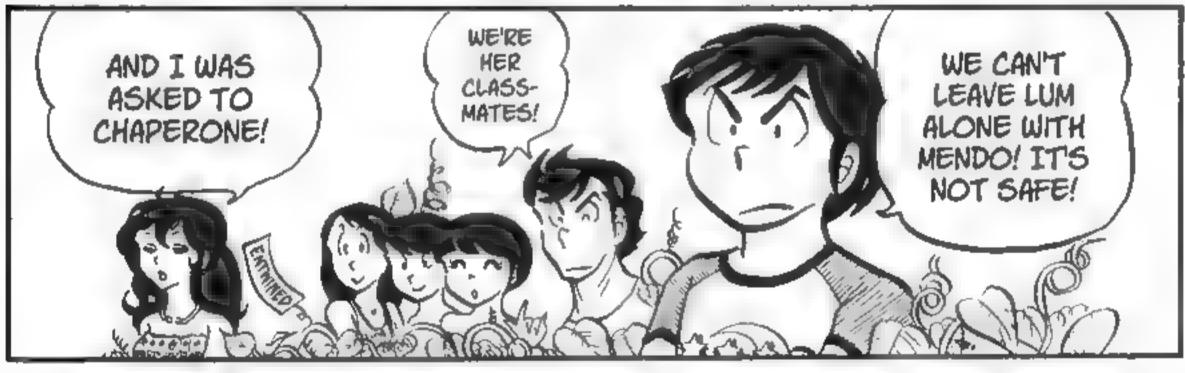


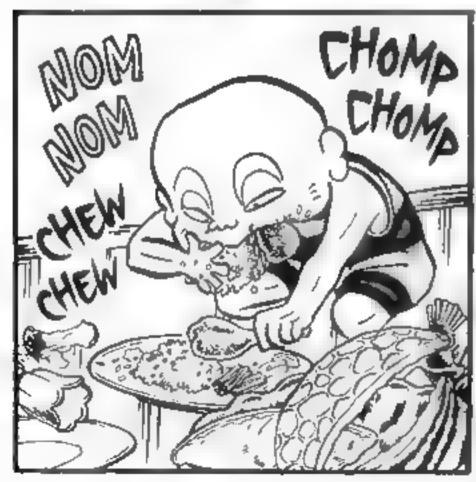
## CHAPTER 7: BATHING SUIT BANDIT







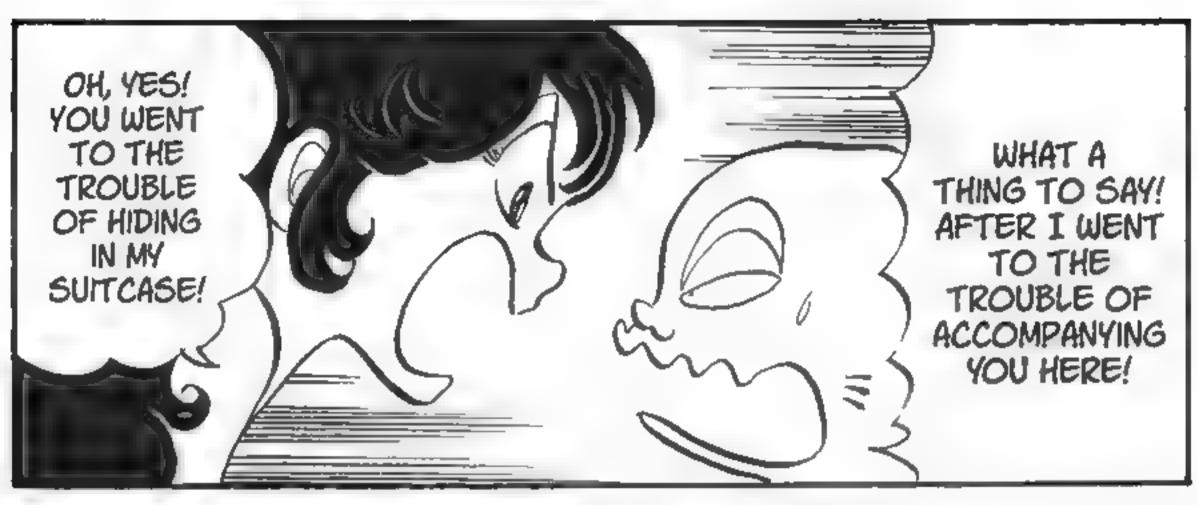








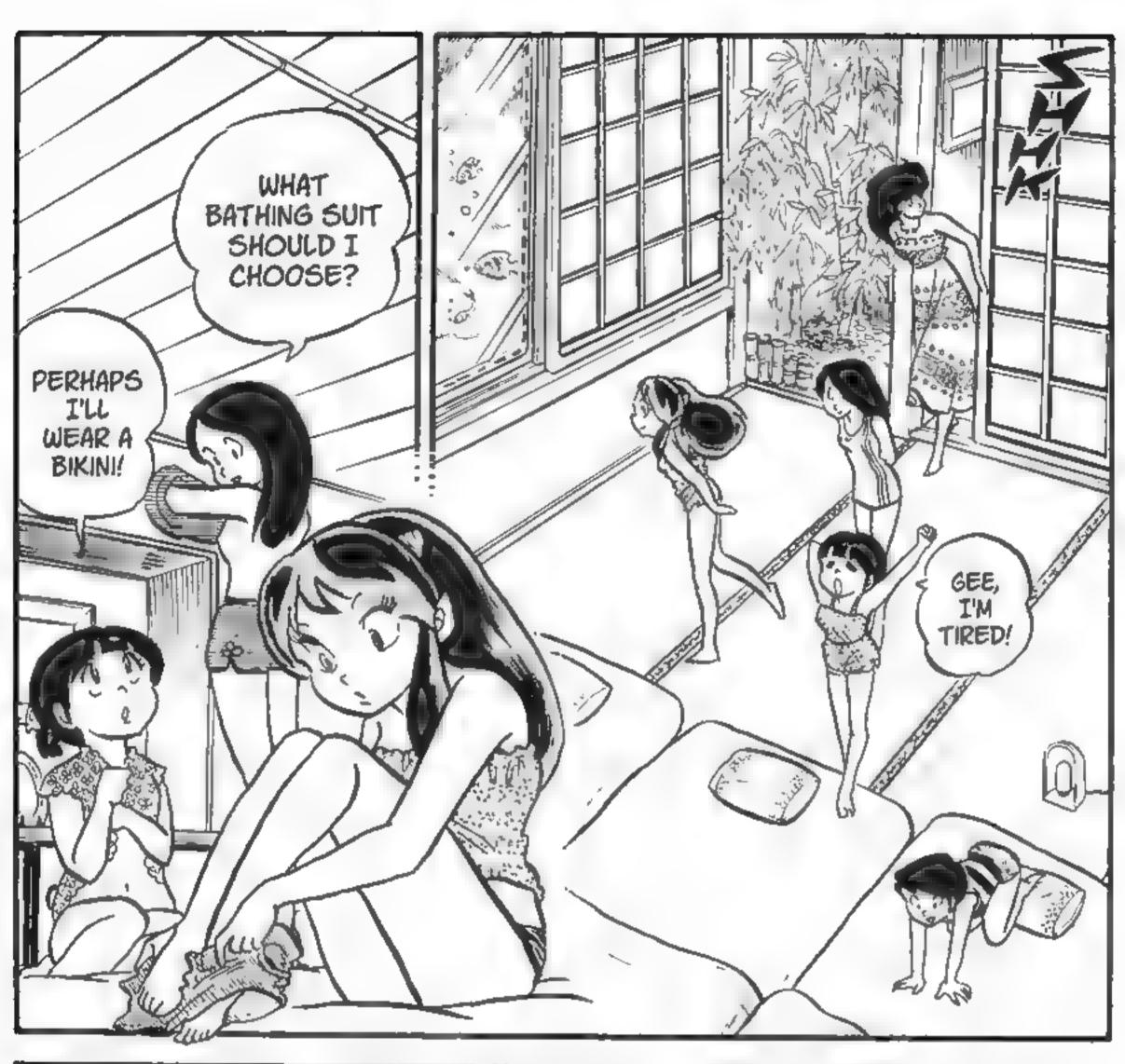






Sealations







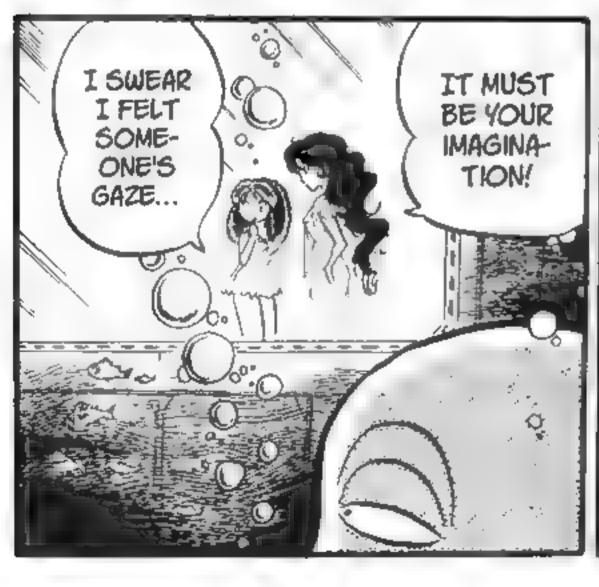


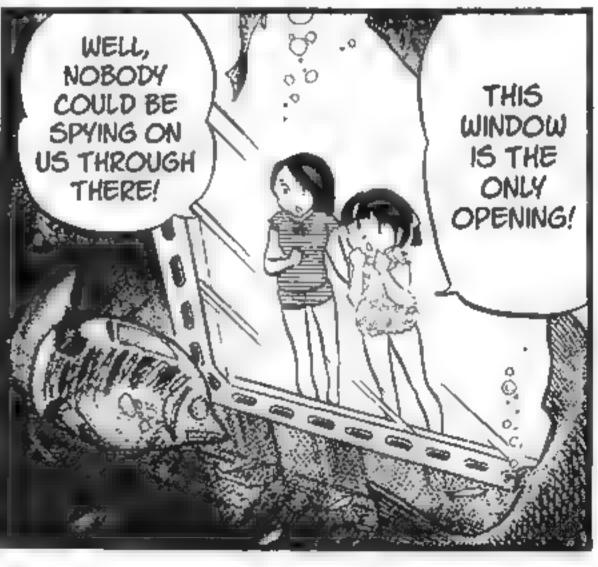


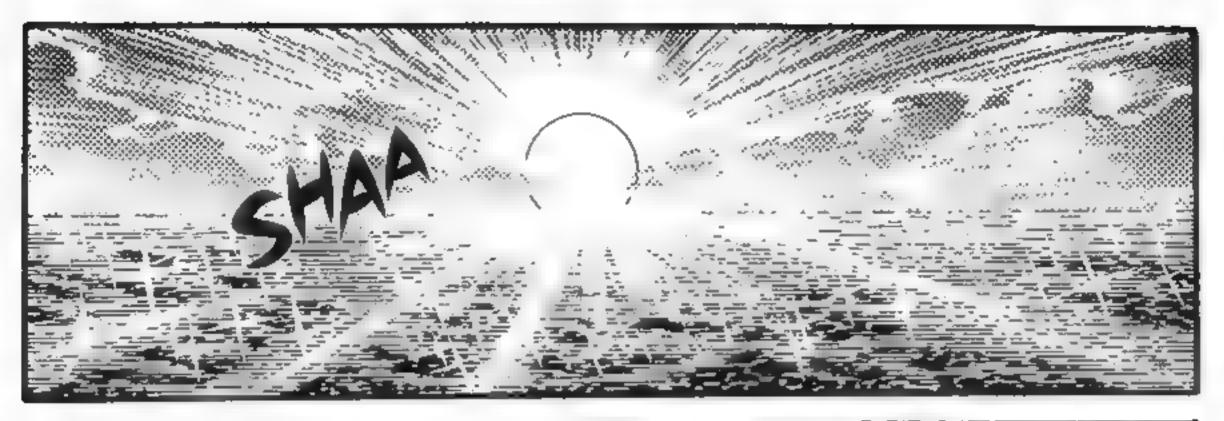




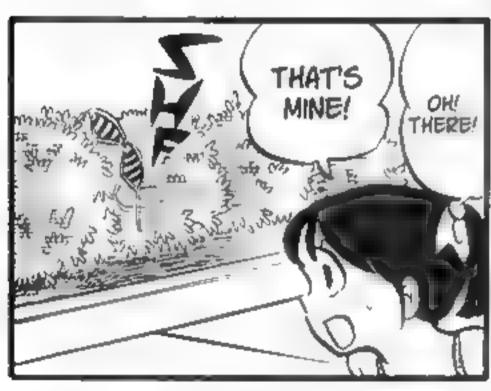








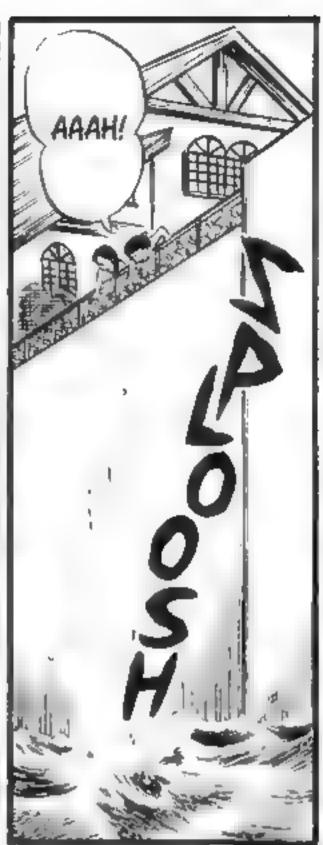








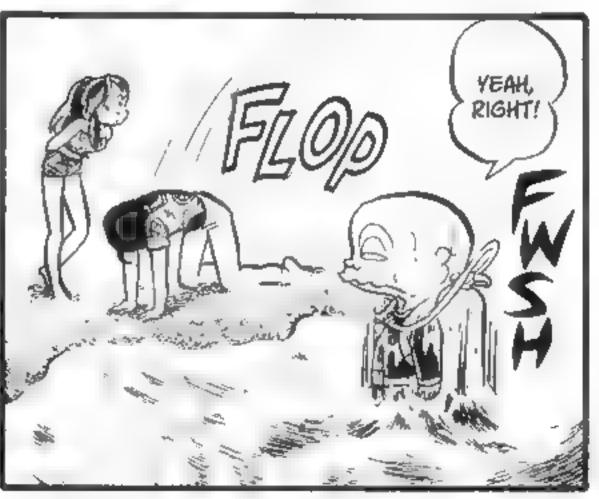


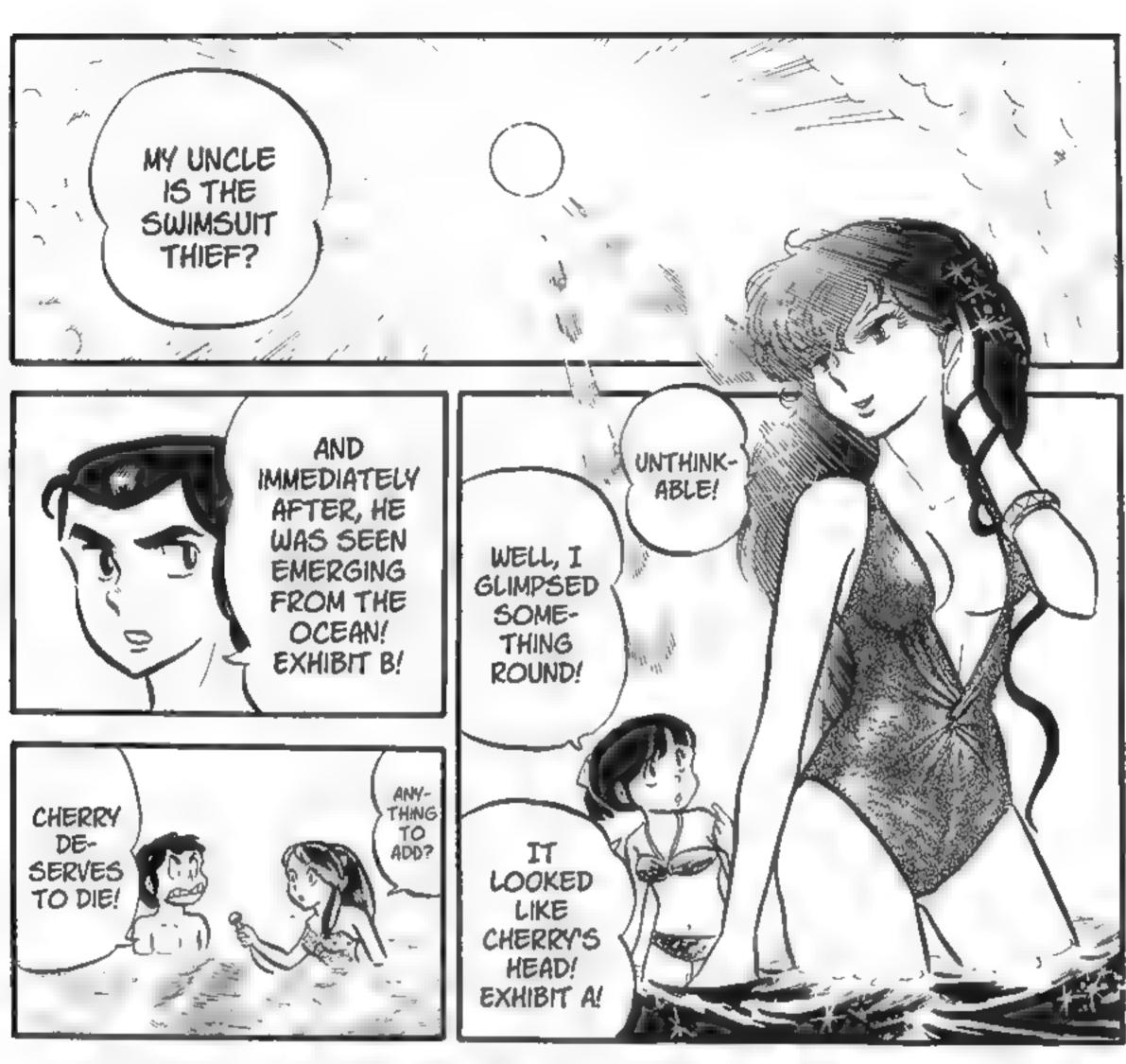










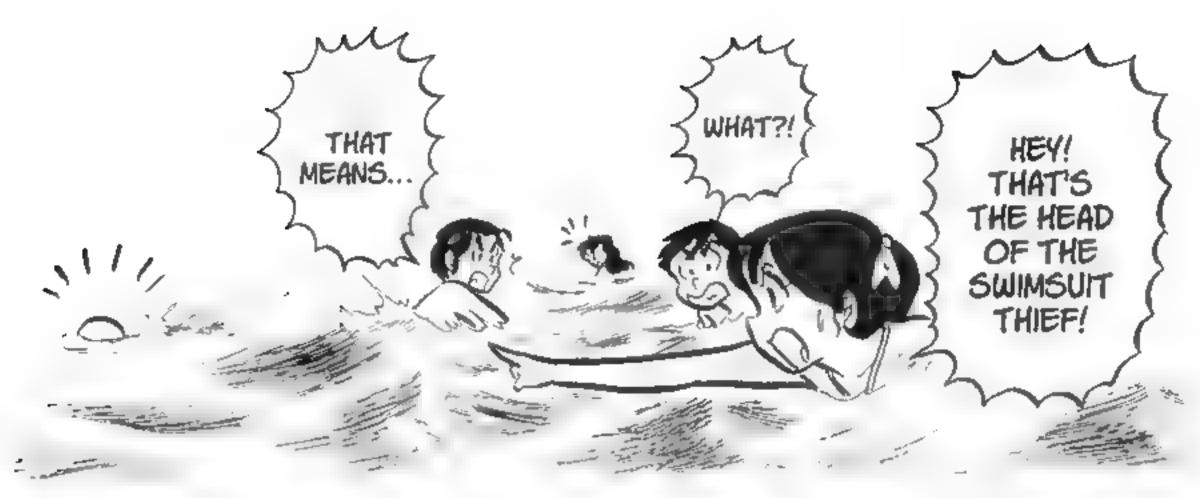












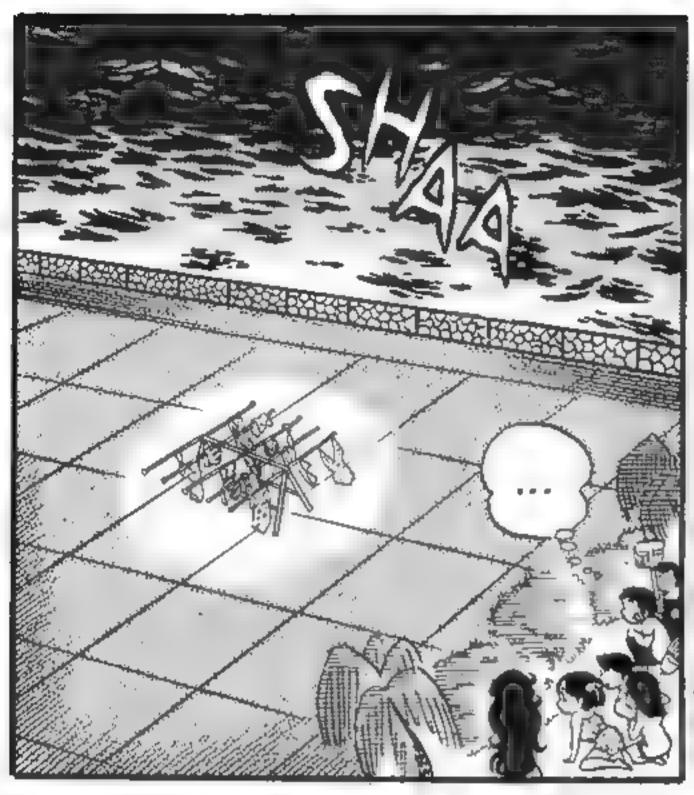












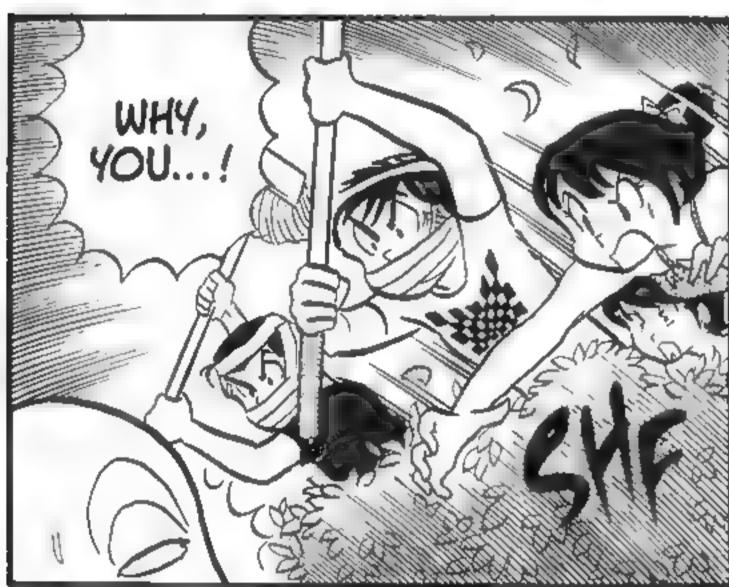


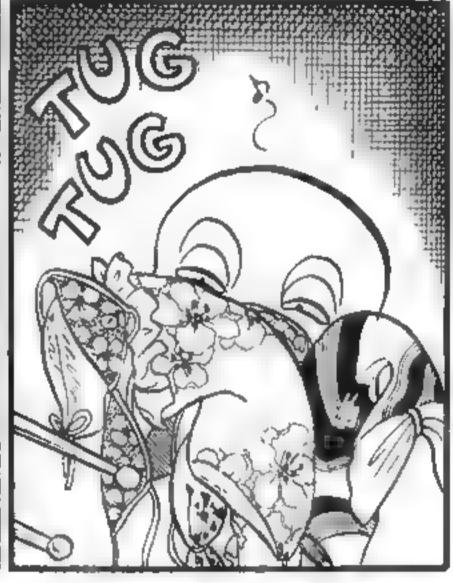


















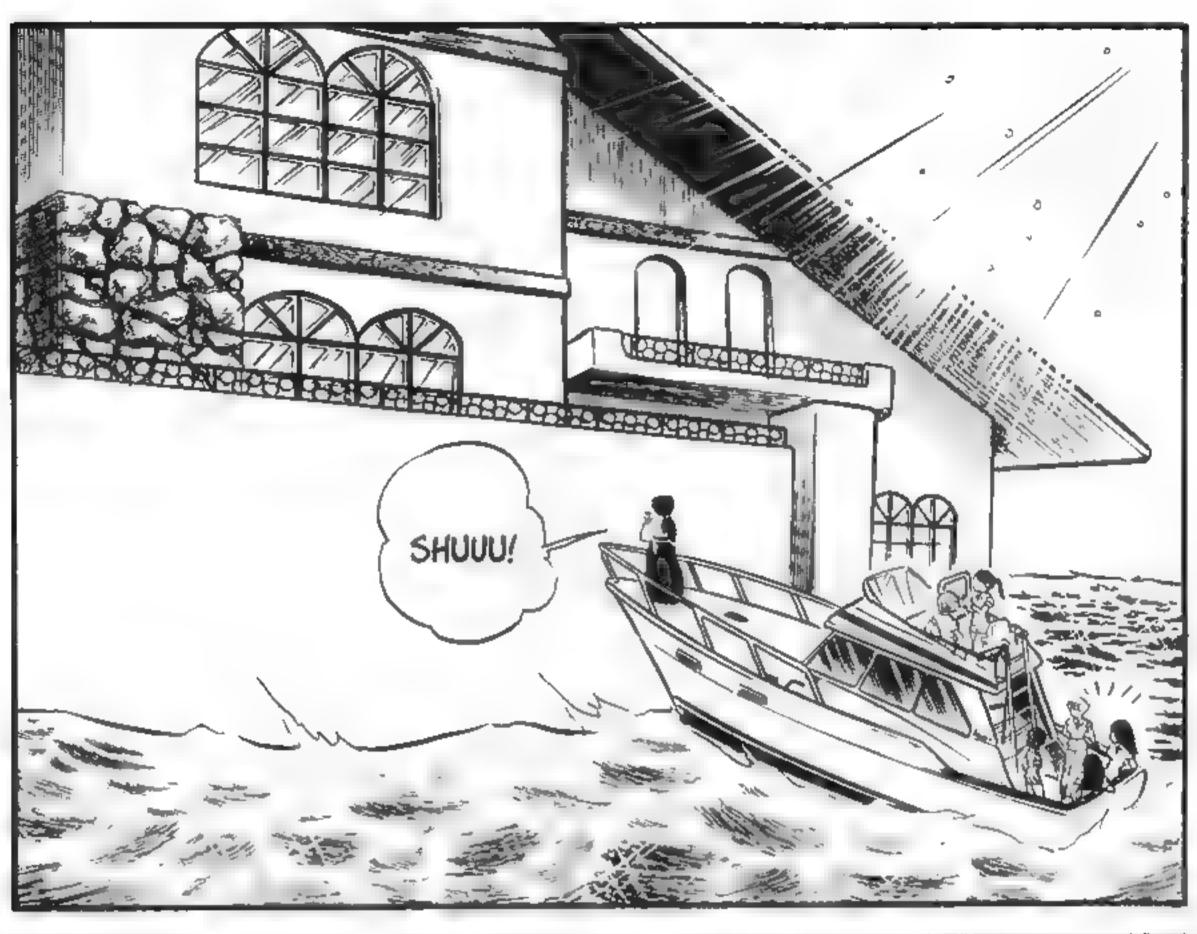




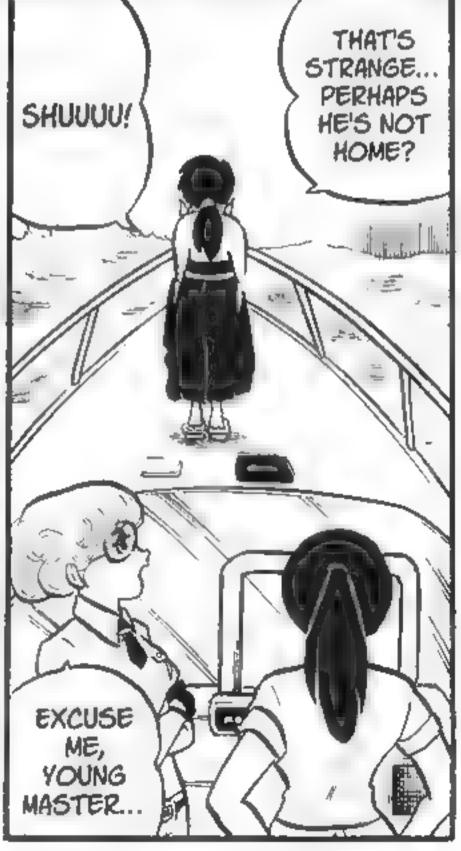


## CHAPTER 8: SNATCH THE BIKINI







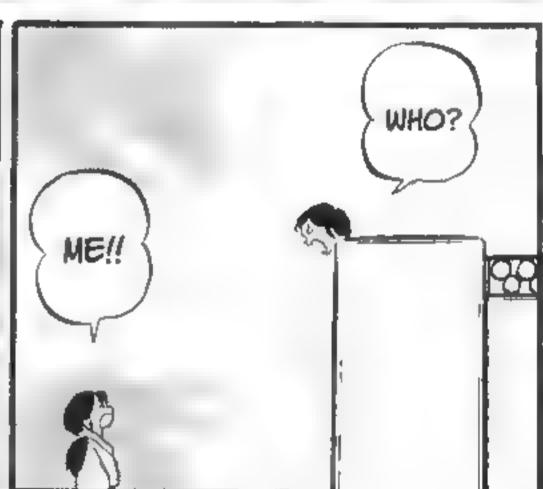










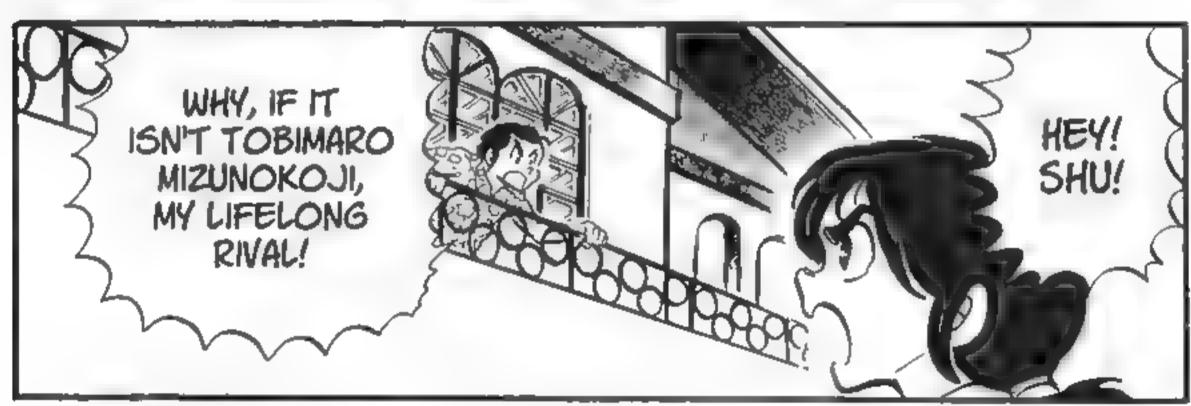




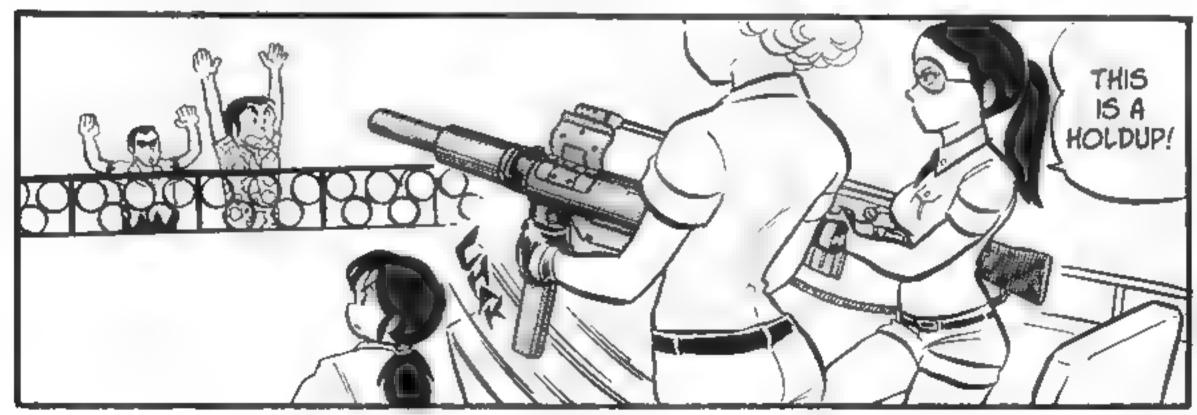




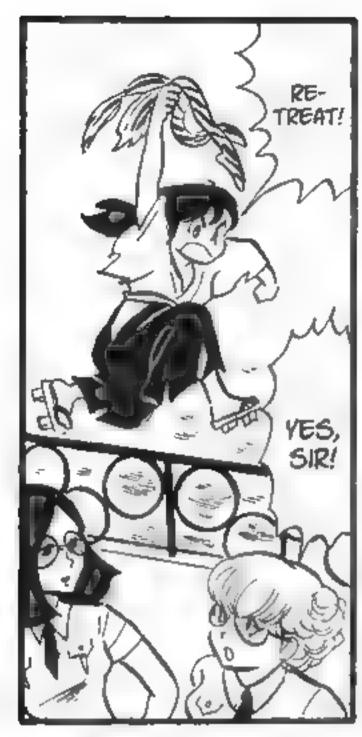






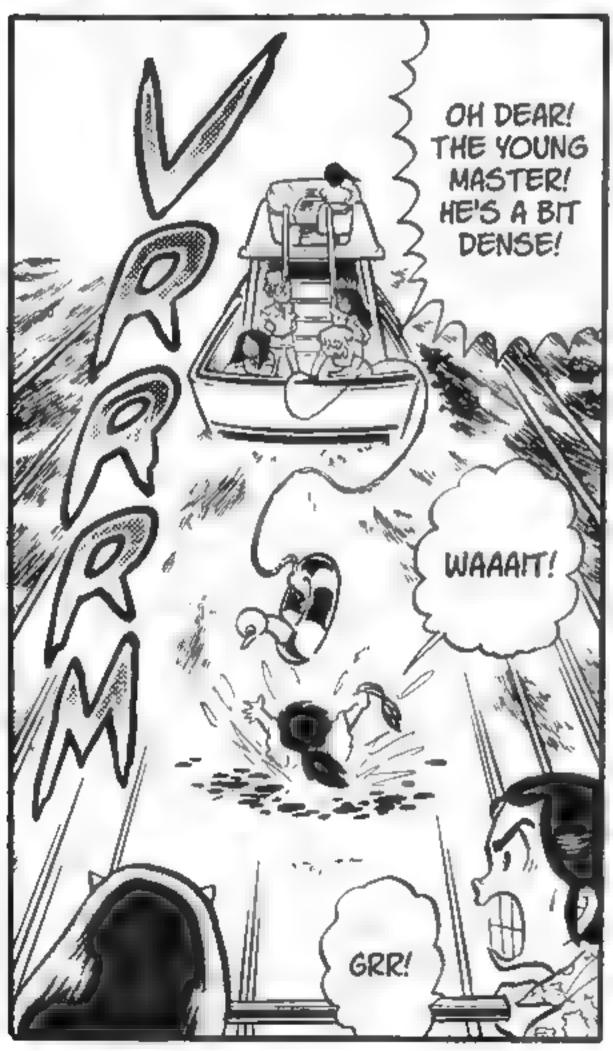


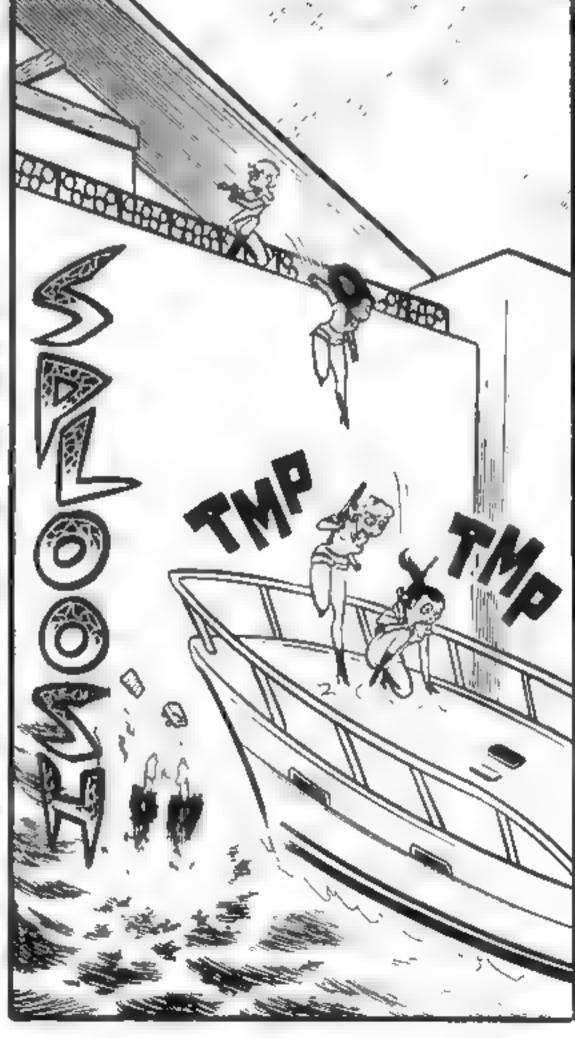






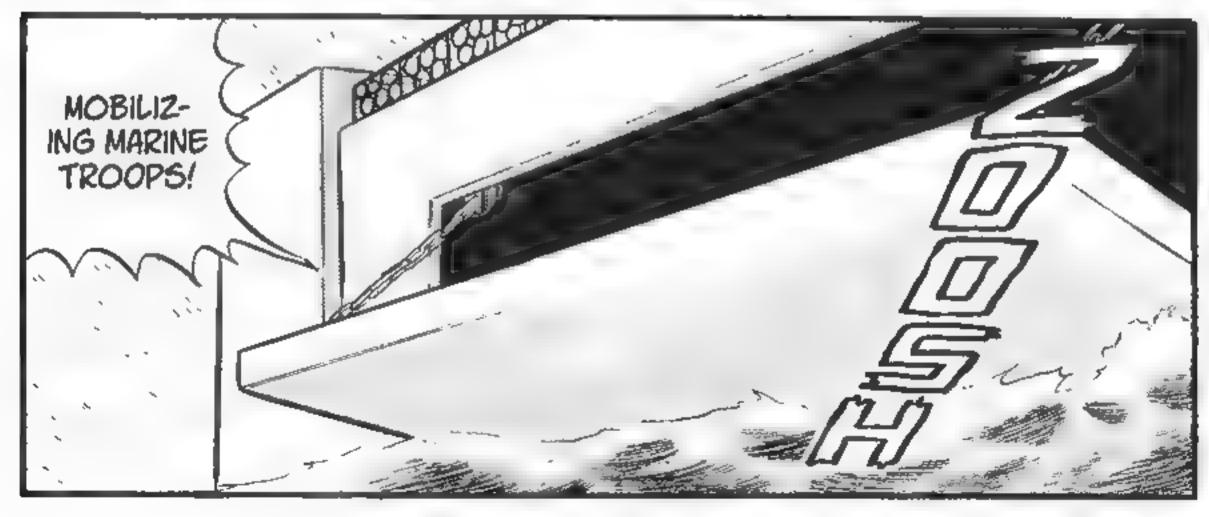




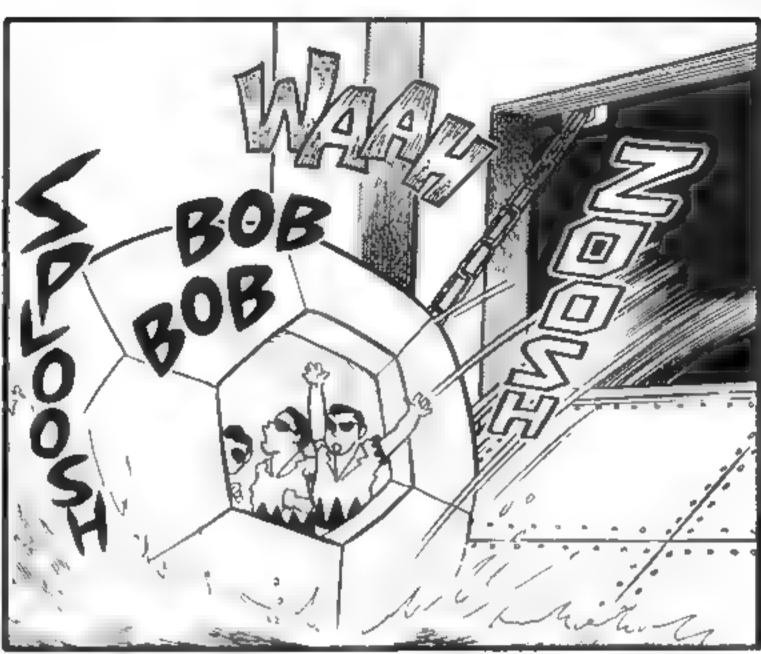




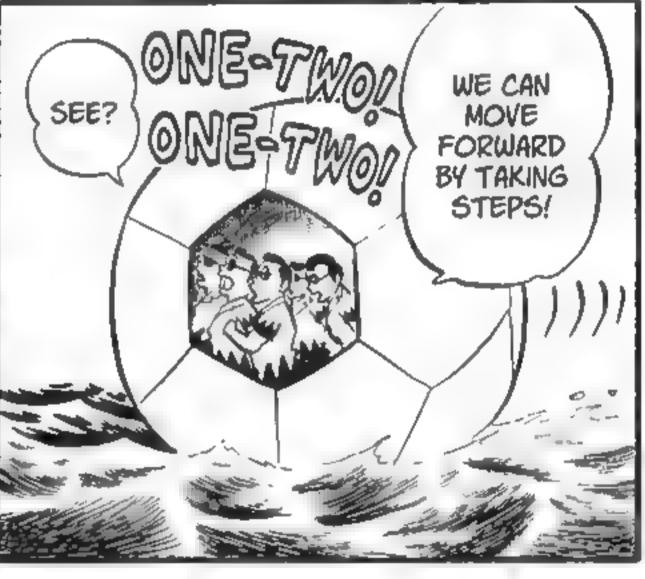


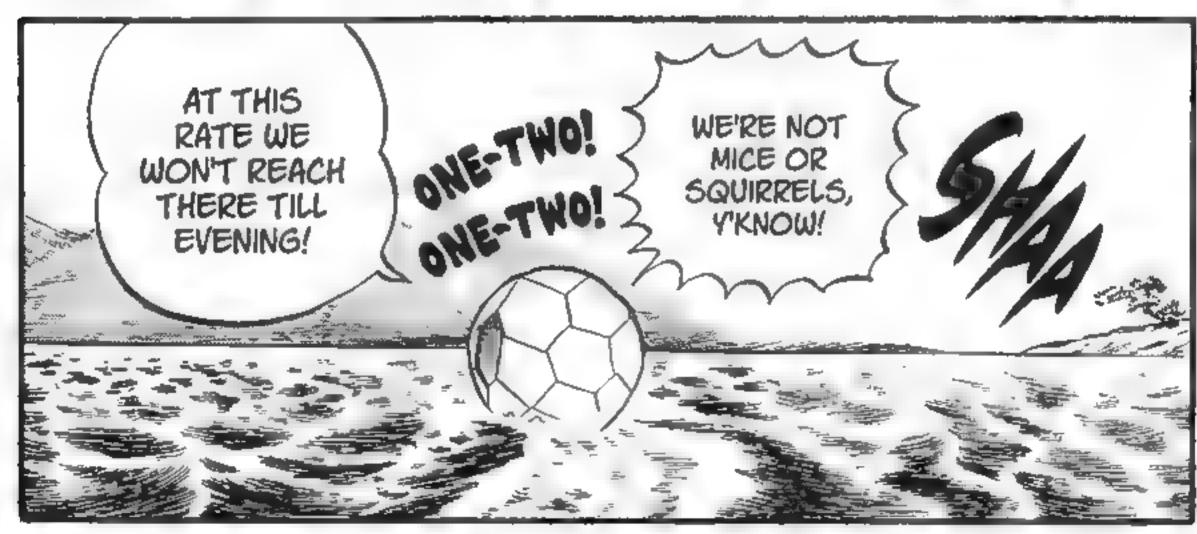


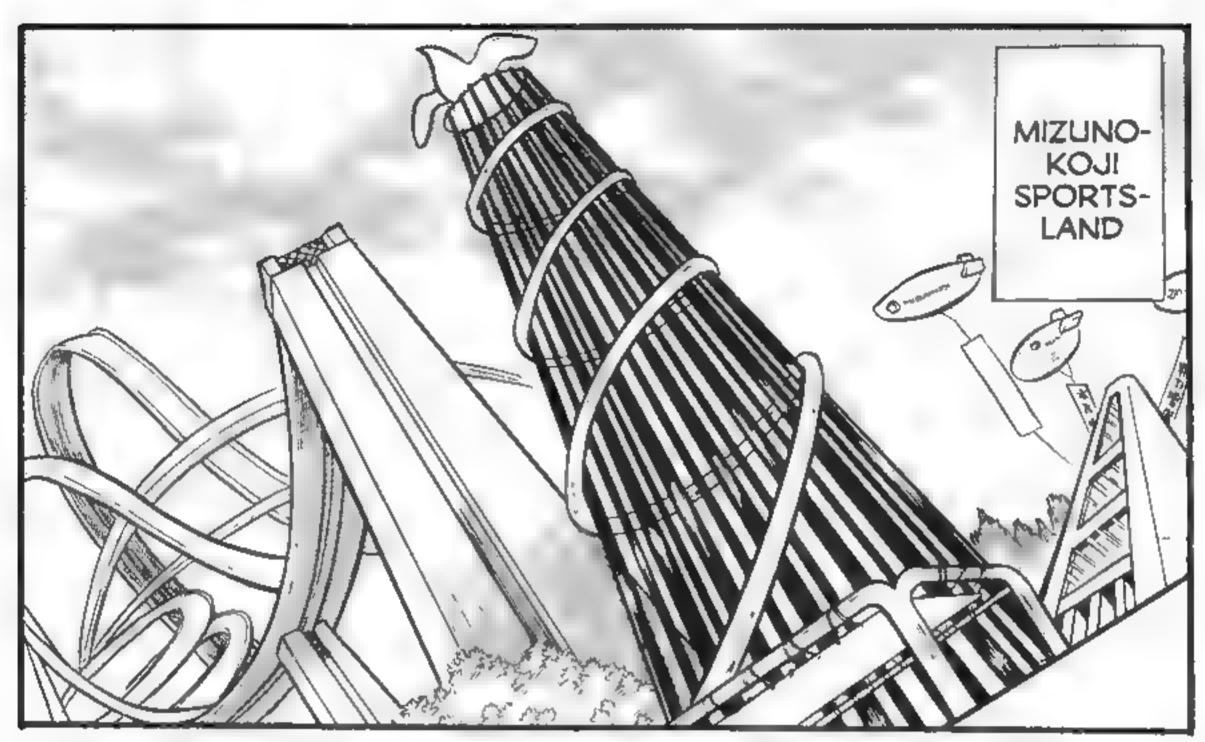






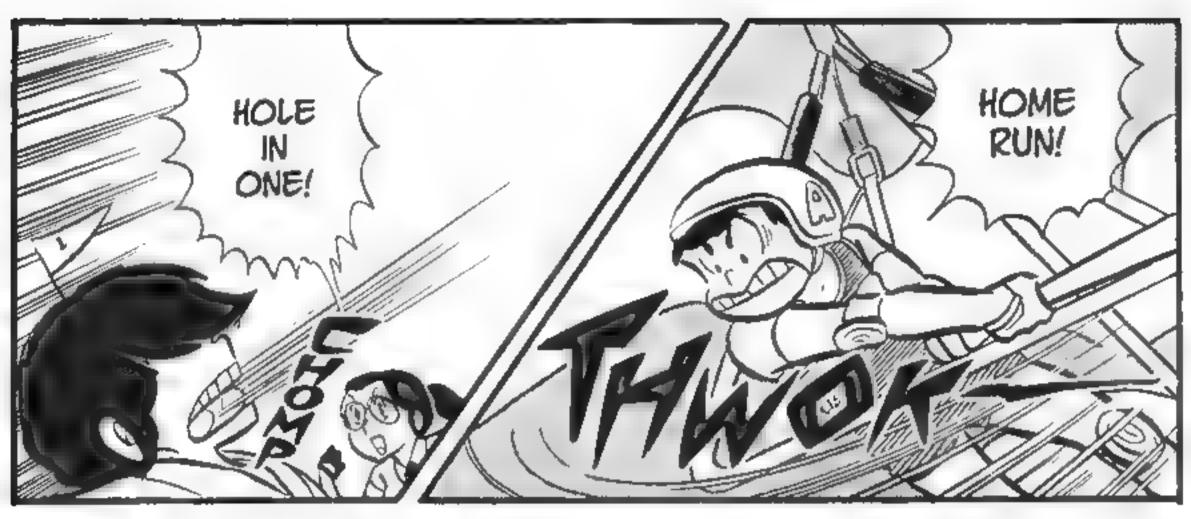








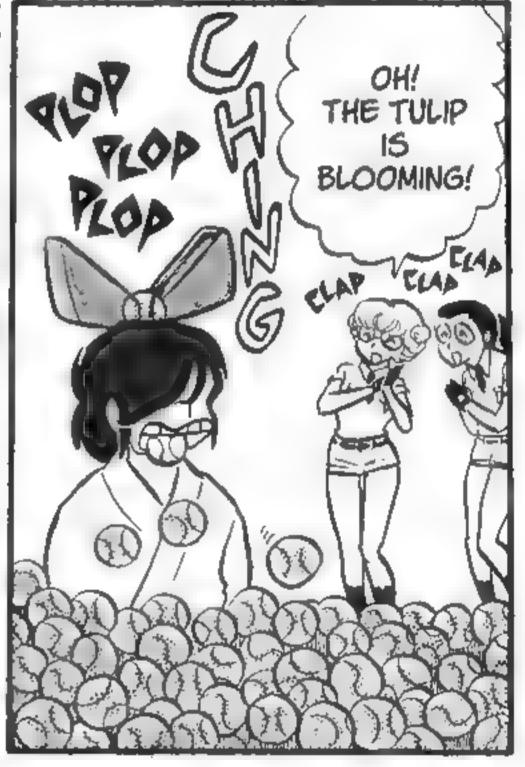




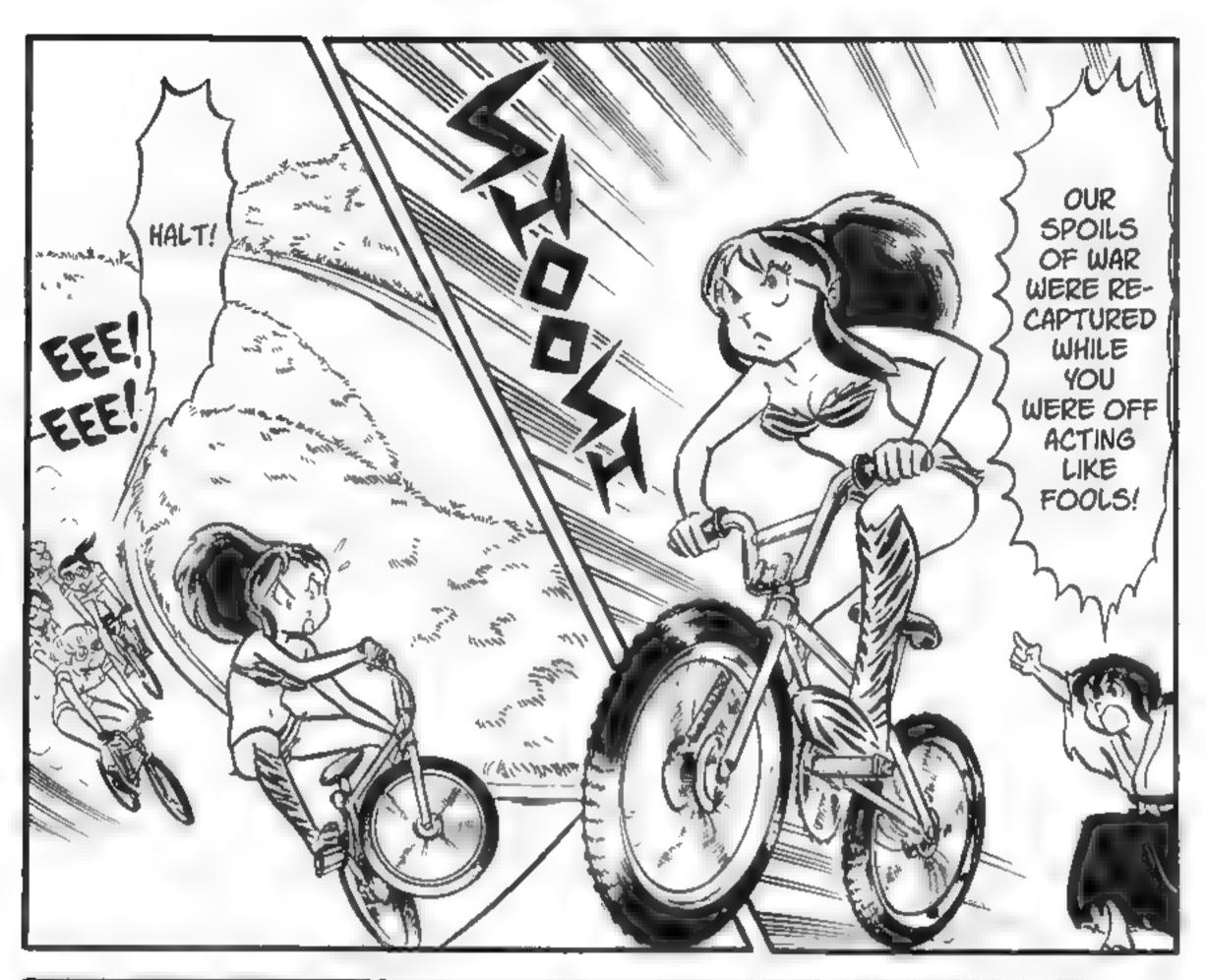


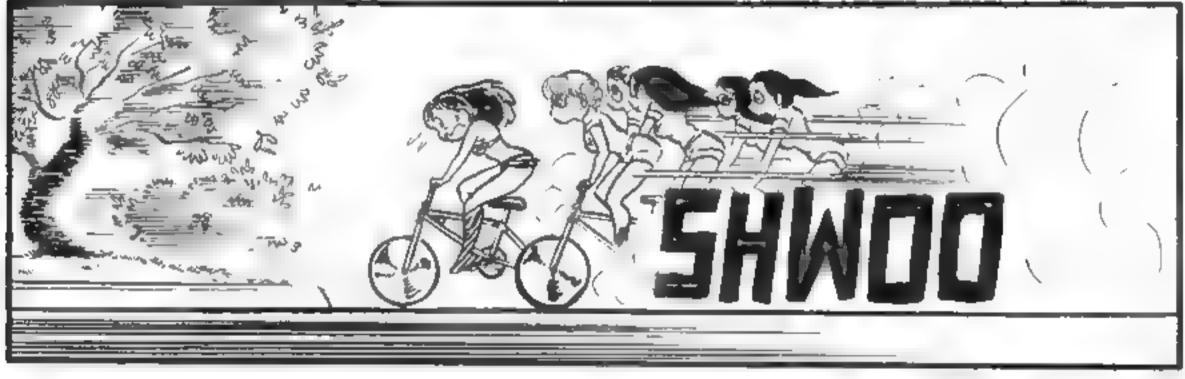




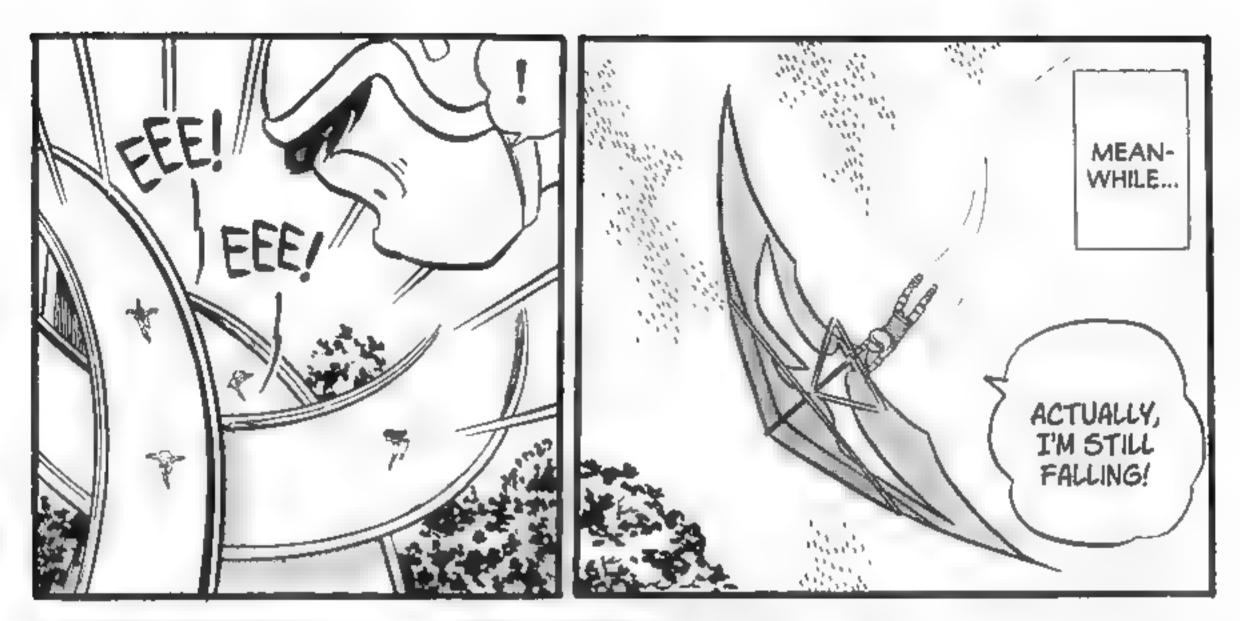
























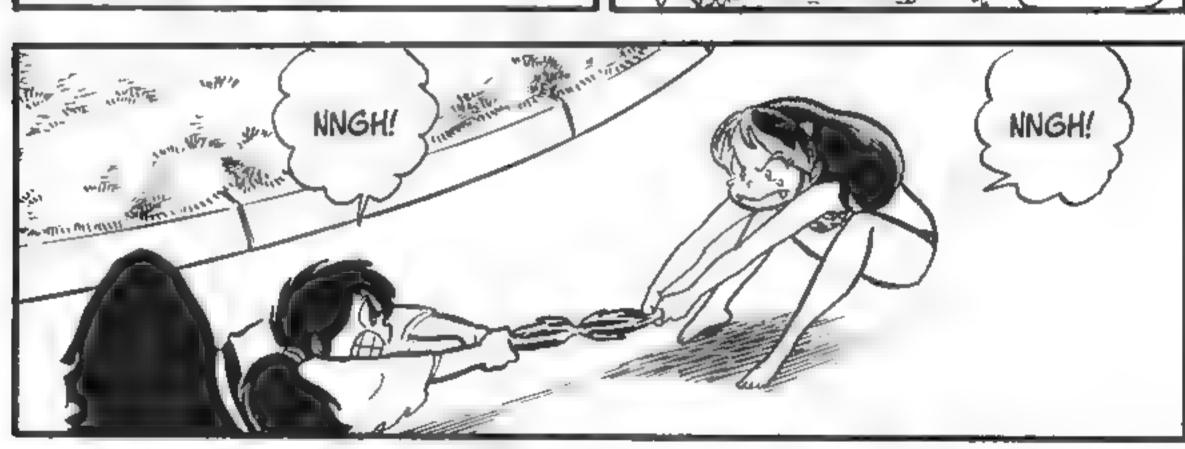
































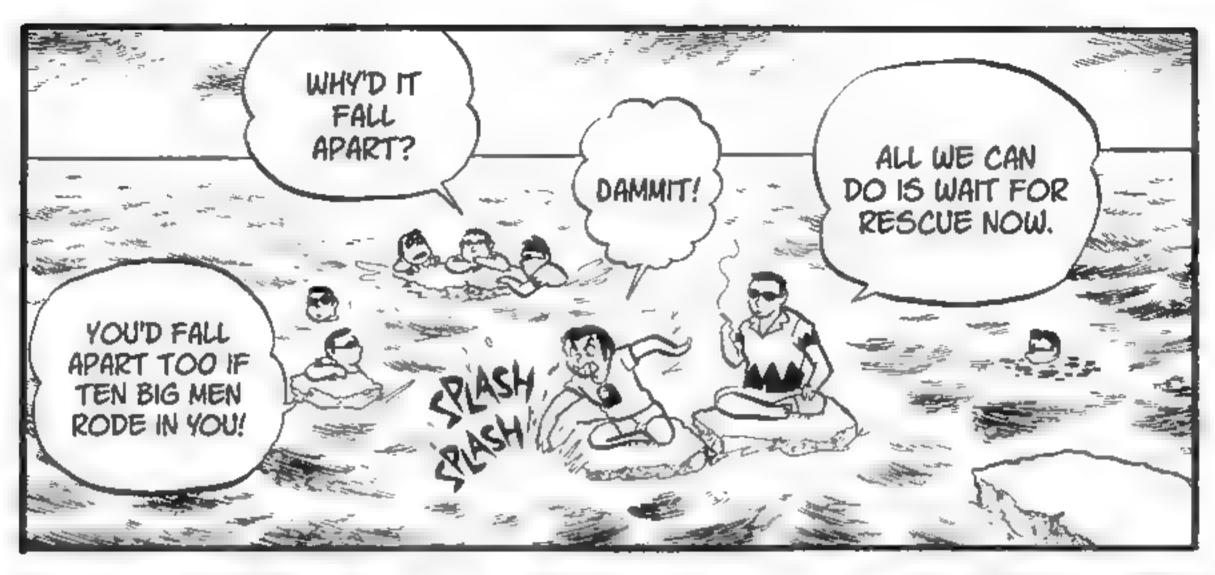














## CHAPTER 9: FOOD FIGHT





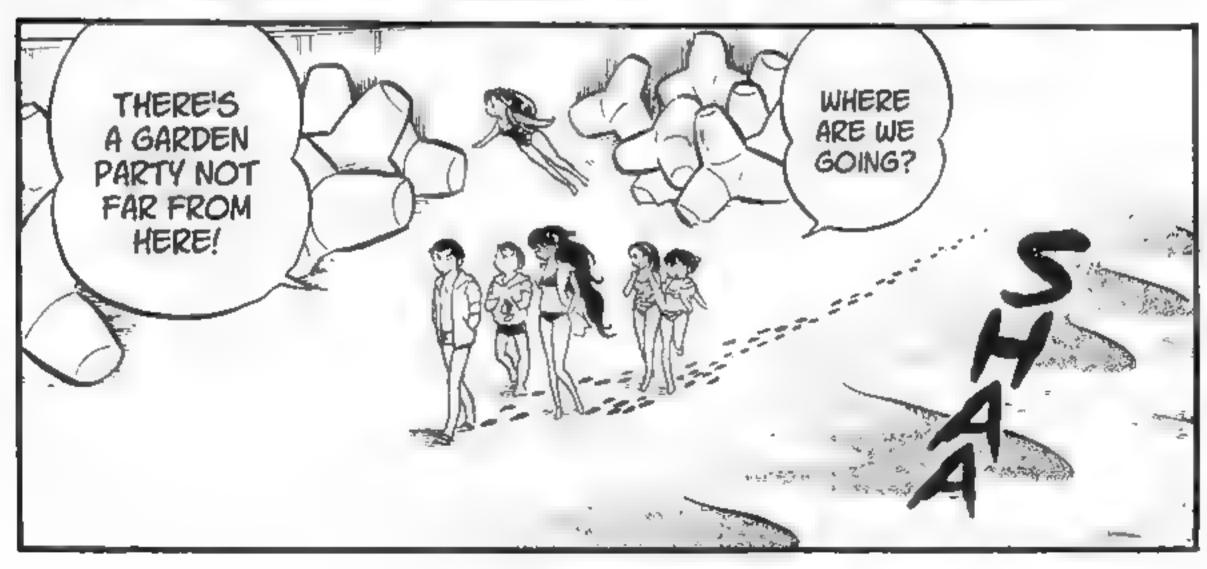










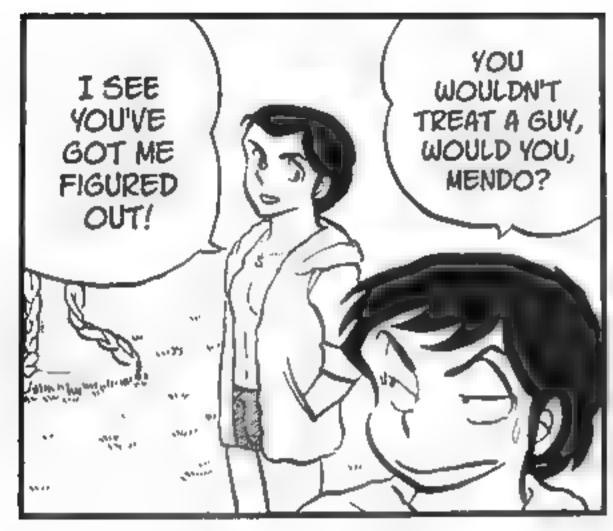








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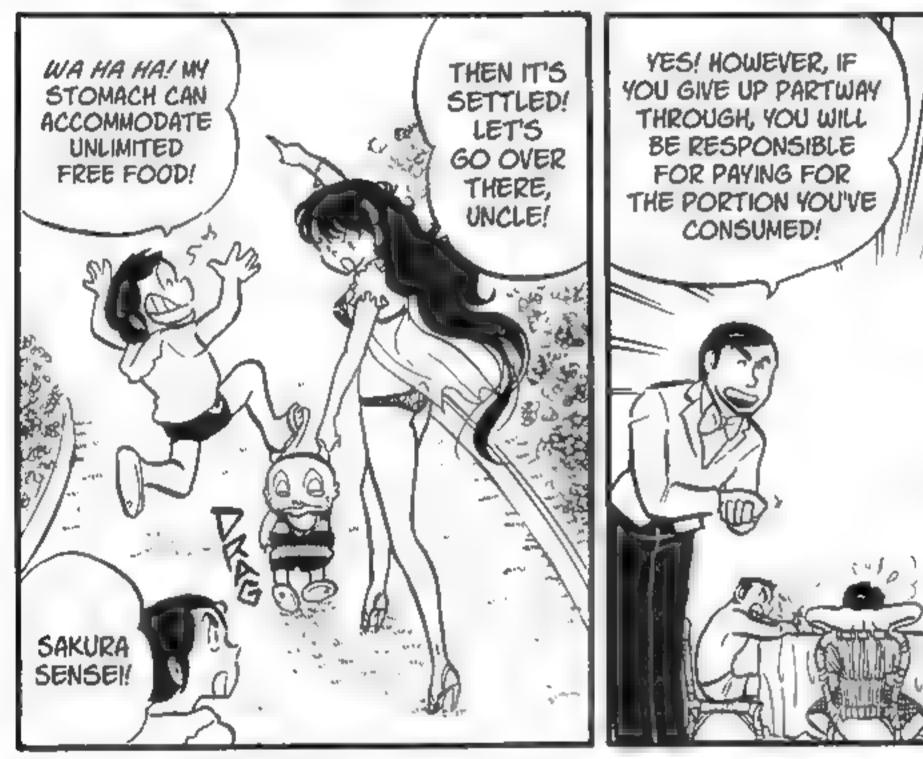














WHAT'S THIS?

IF WE FINISH

THE FULL

COURSE, IT'S

FREE?

THE

COURSE

THE FULL COURSE MEAL

FROM HELL













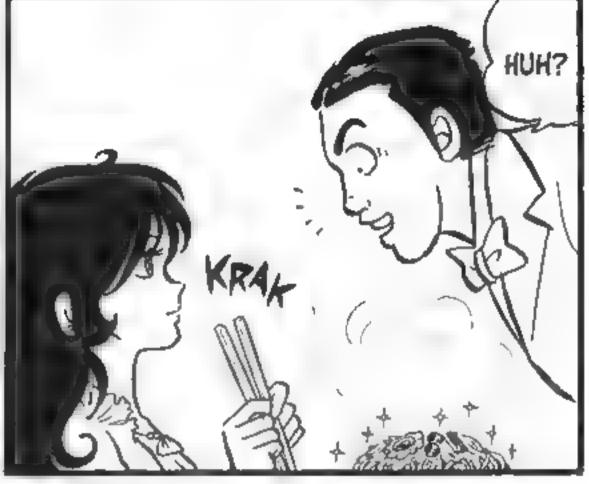




















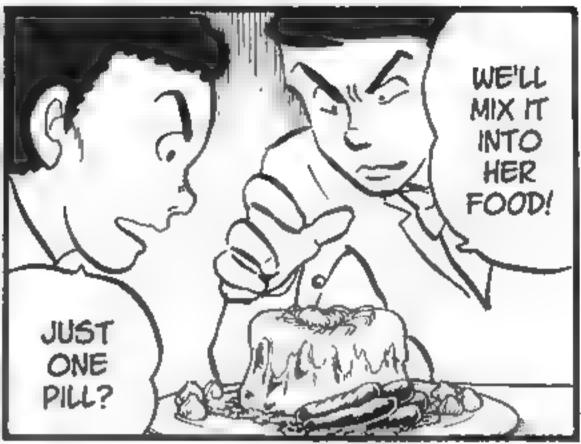




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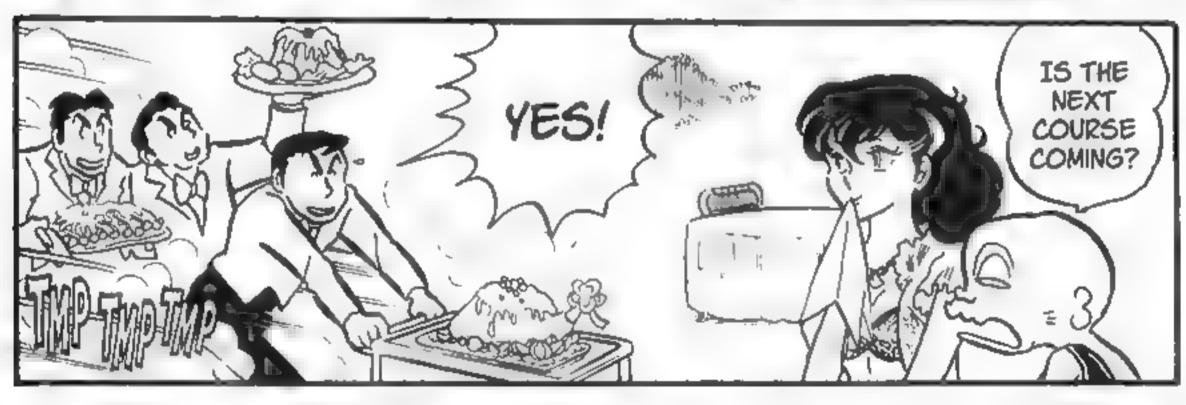




























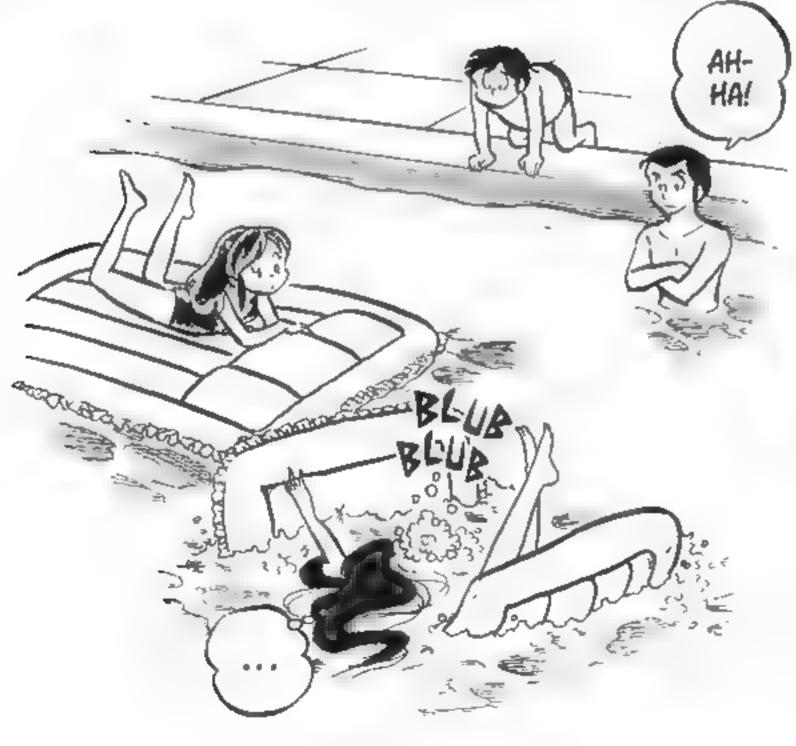




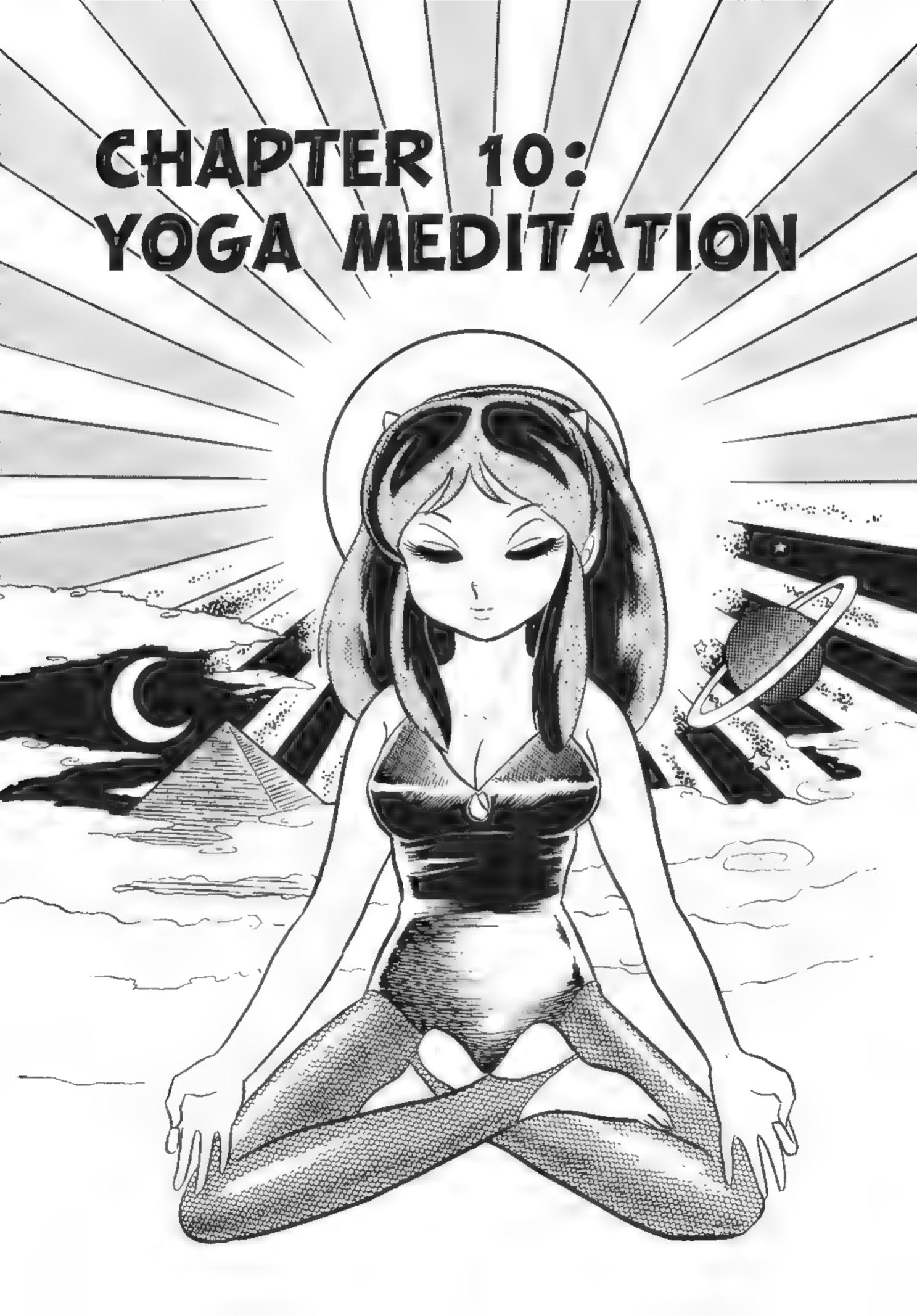




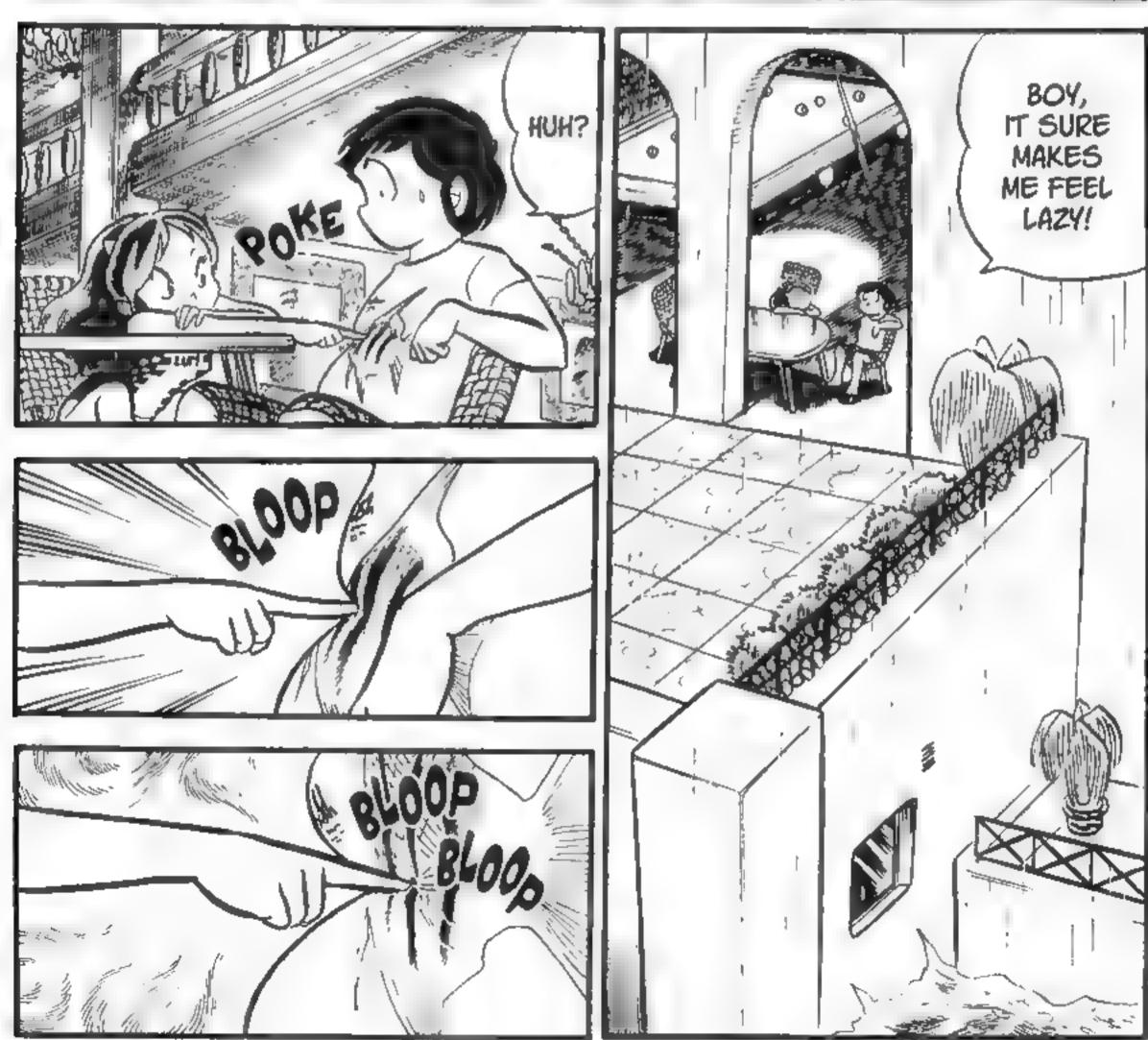


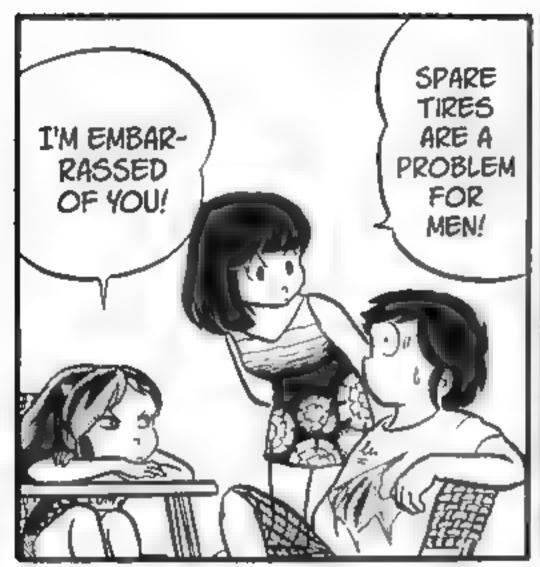


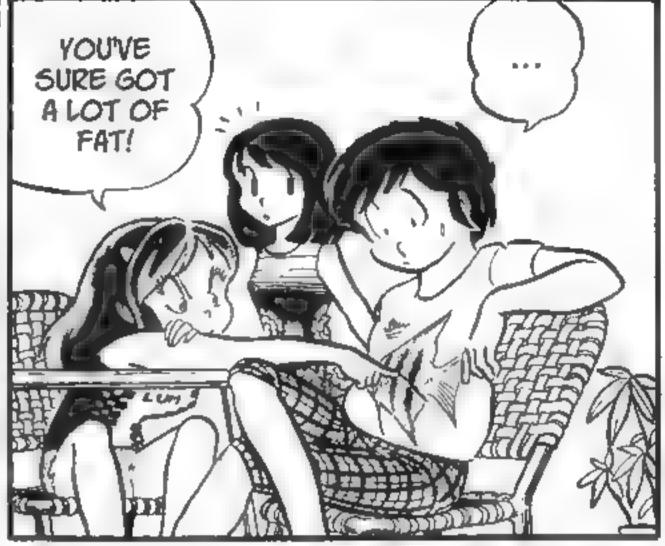


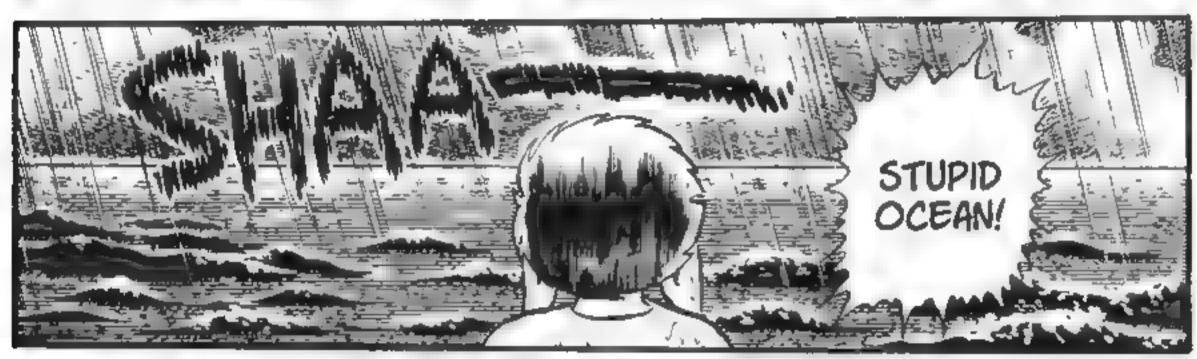


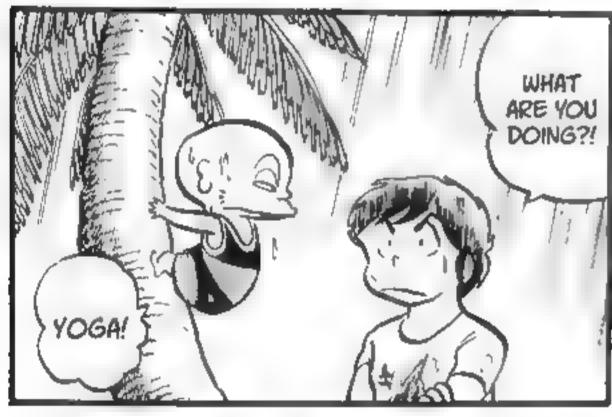


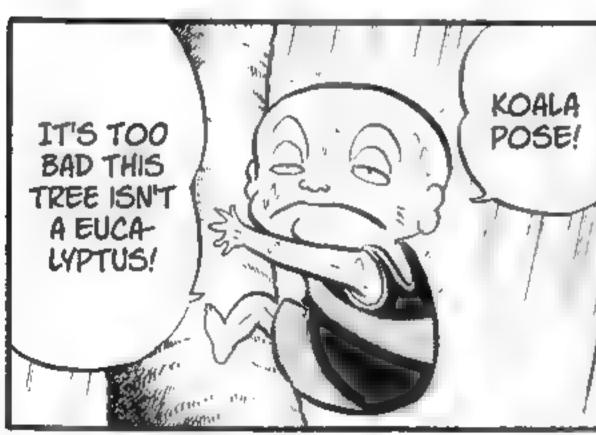


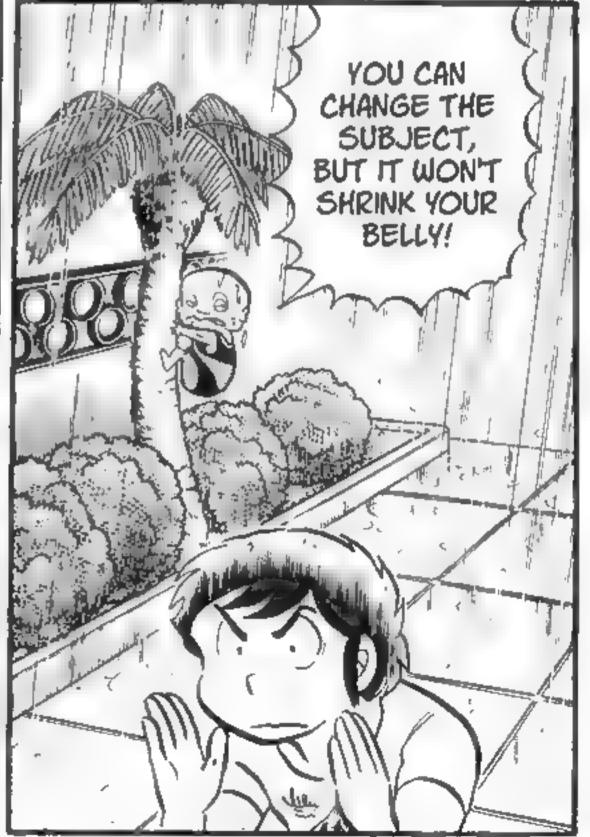










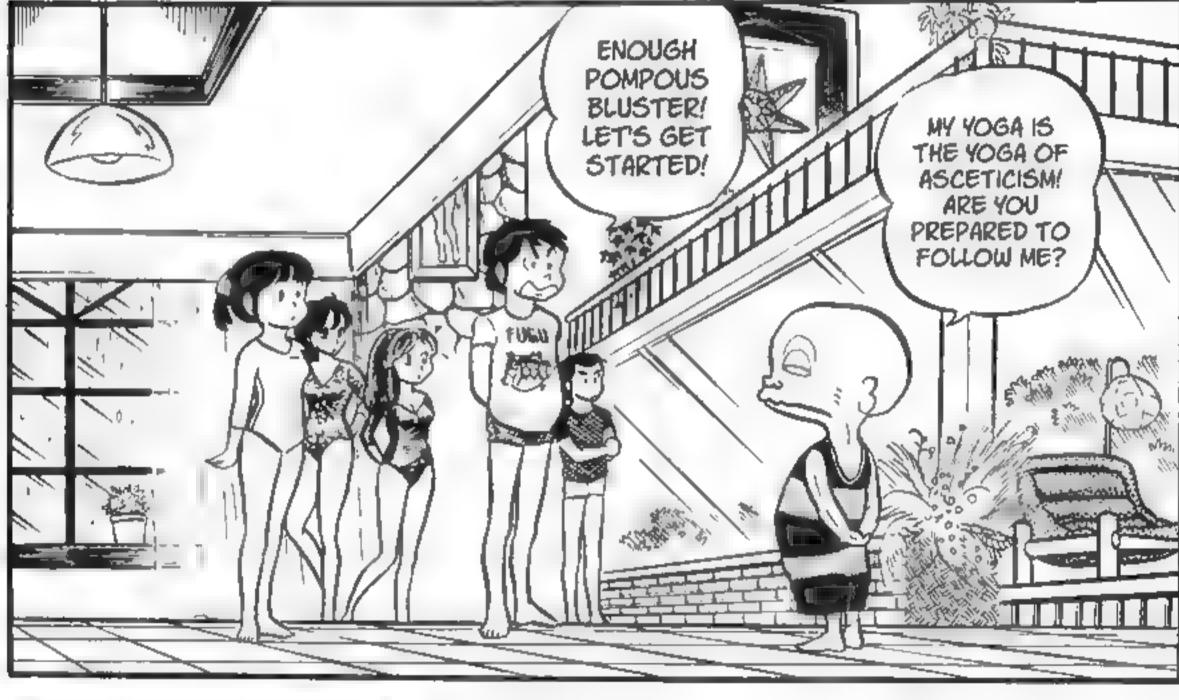




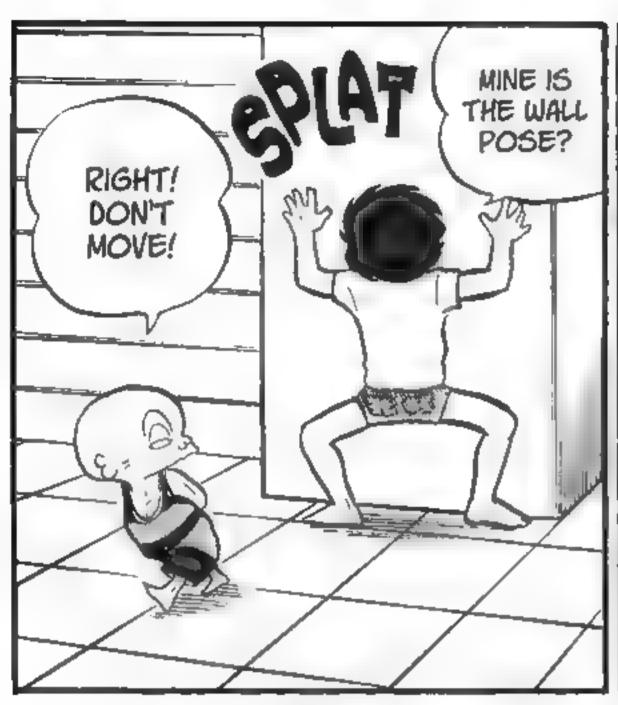




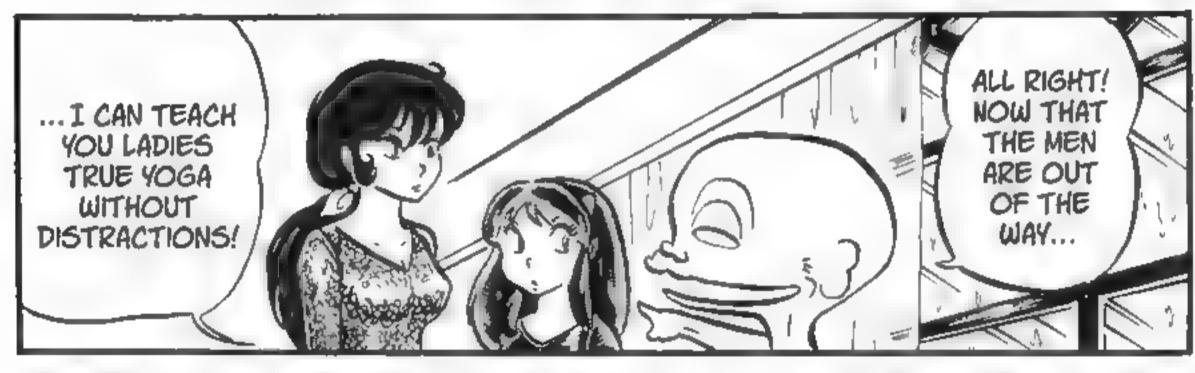


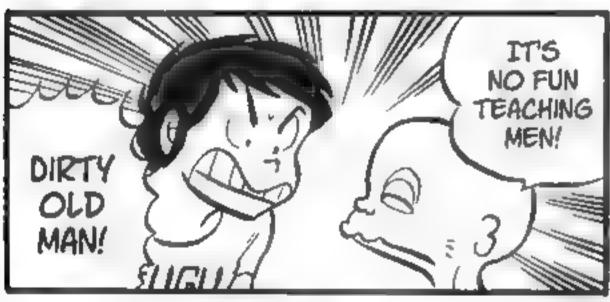














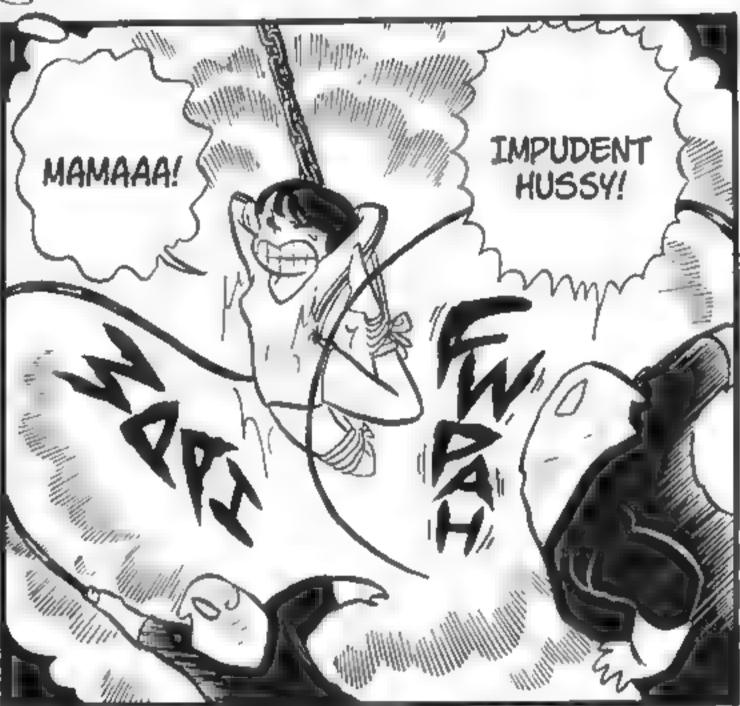








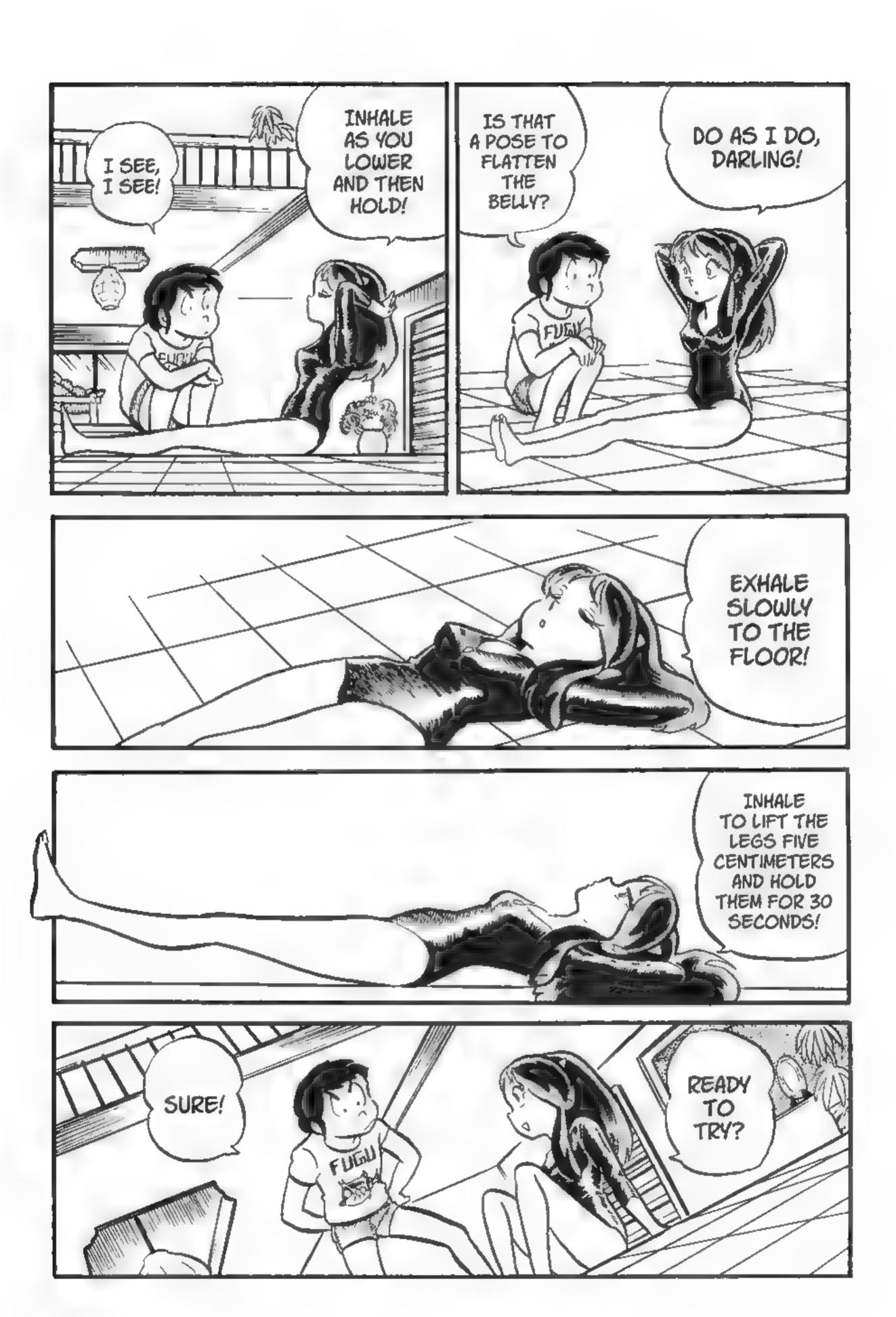


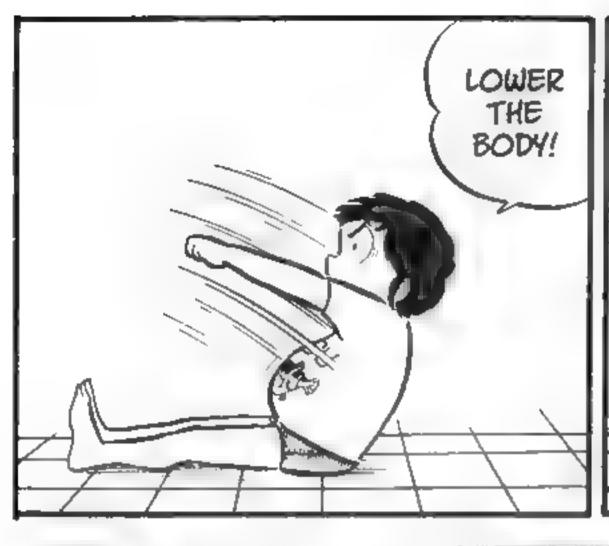




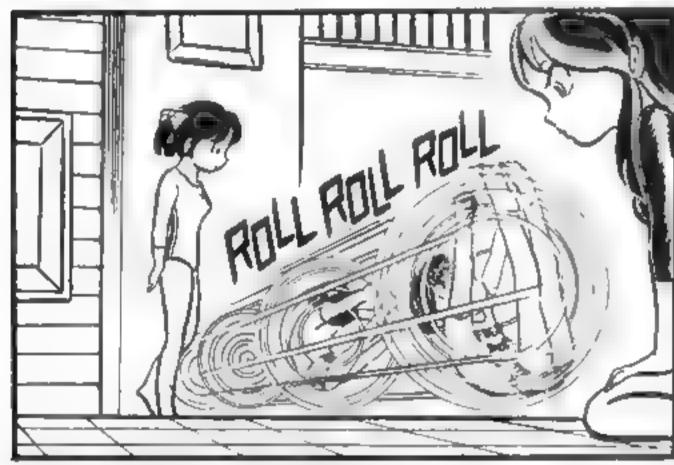








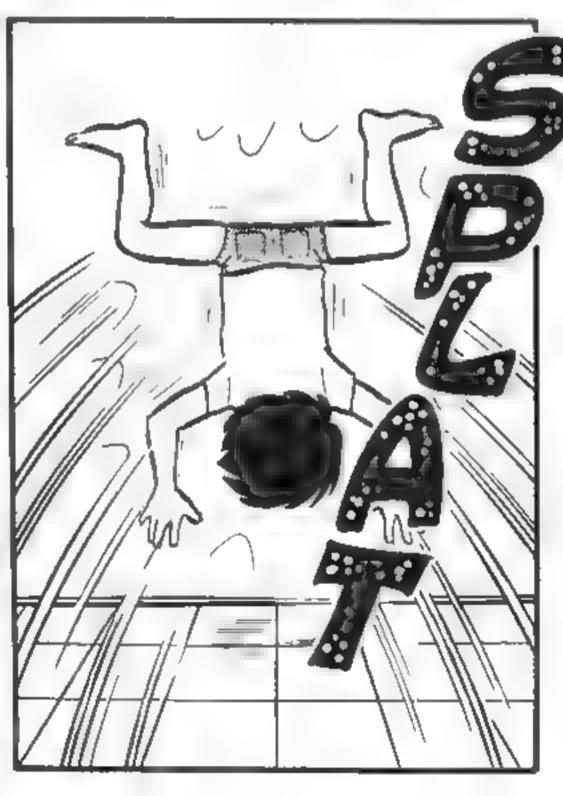




























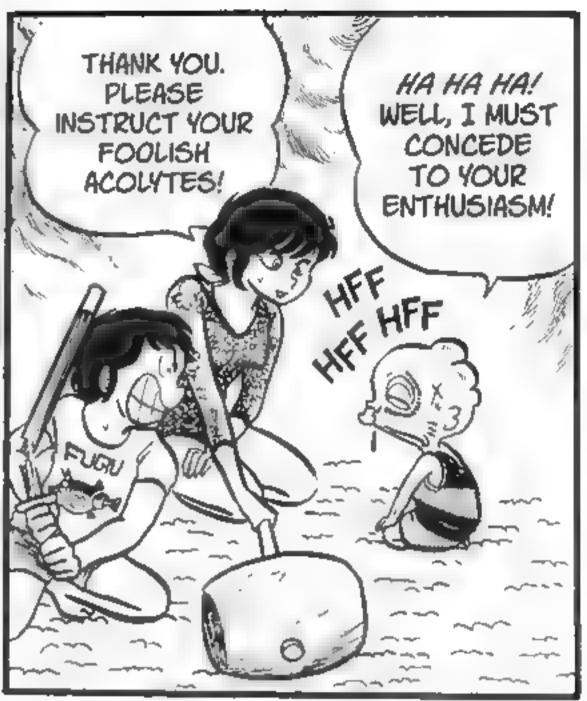






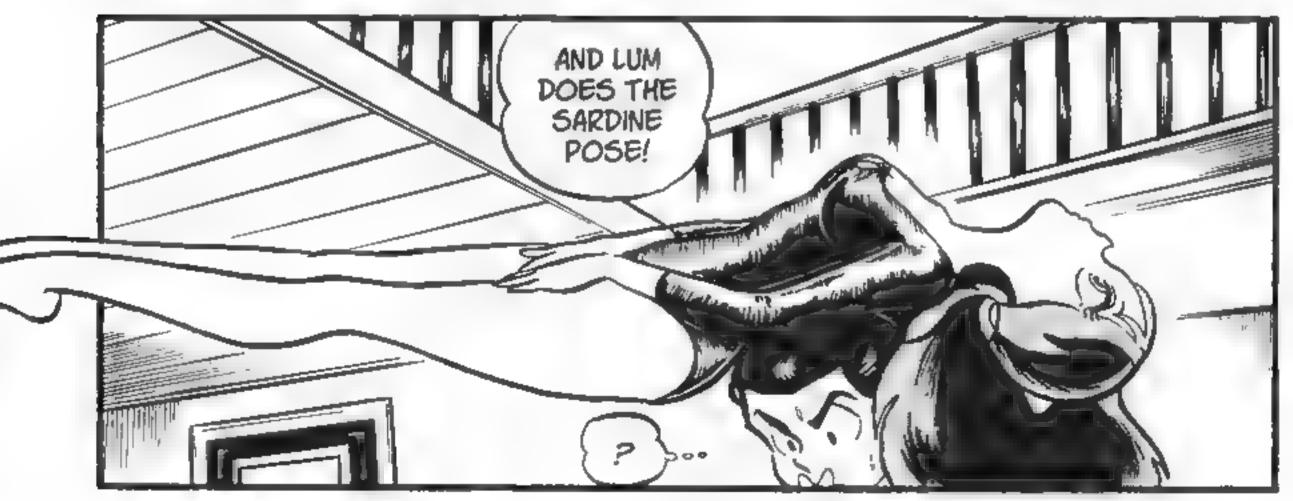






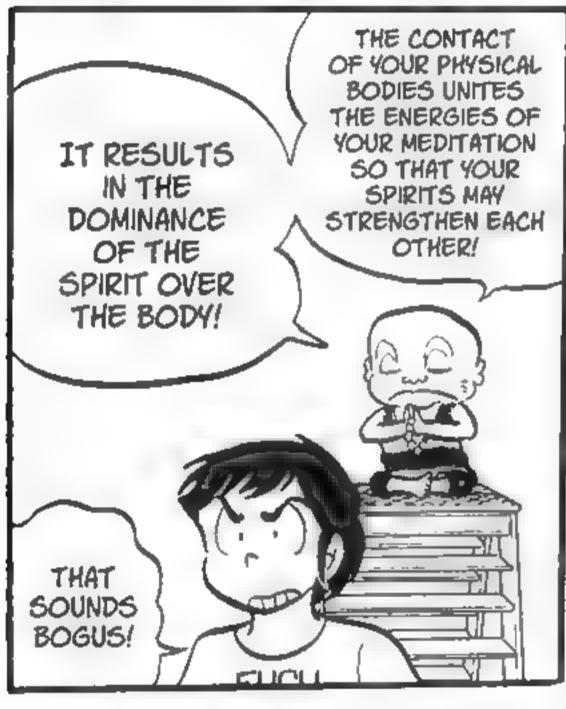




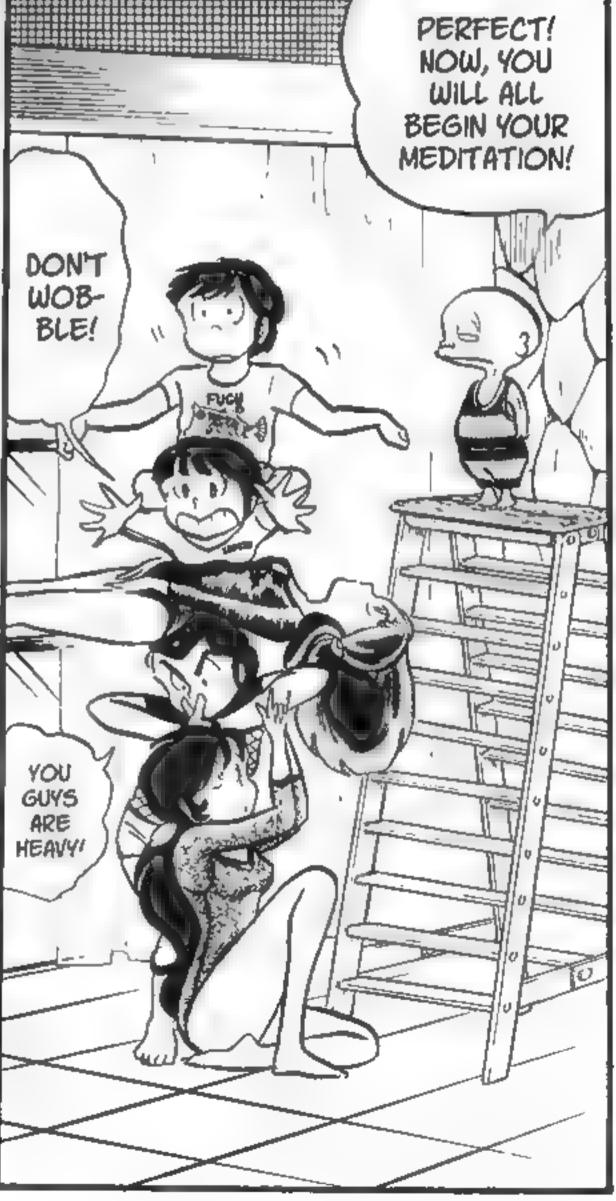


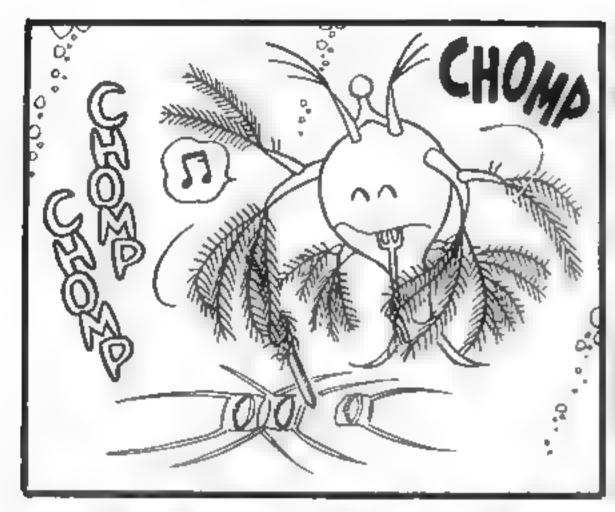










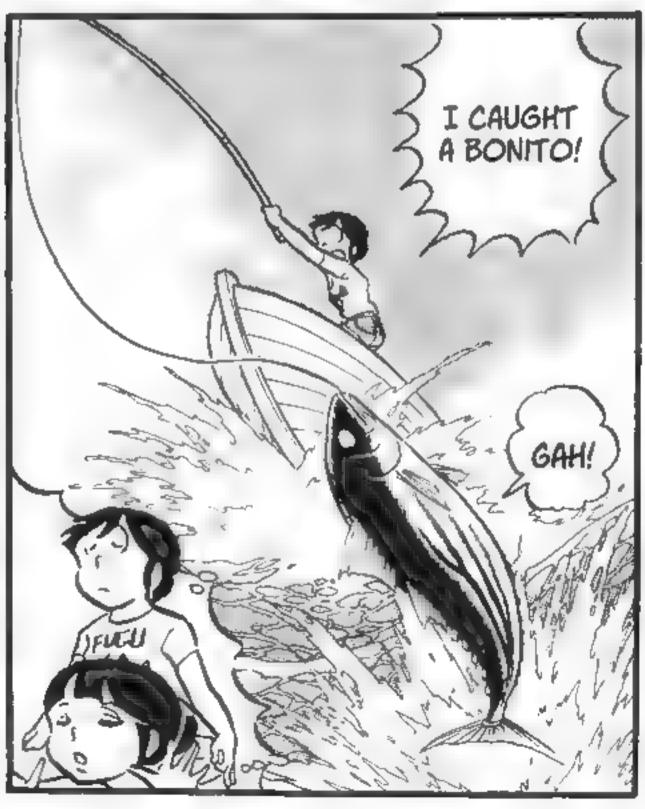


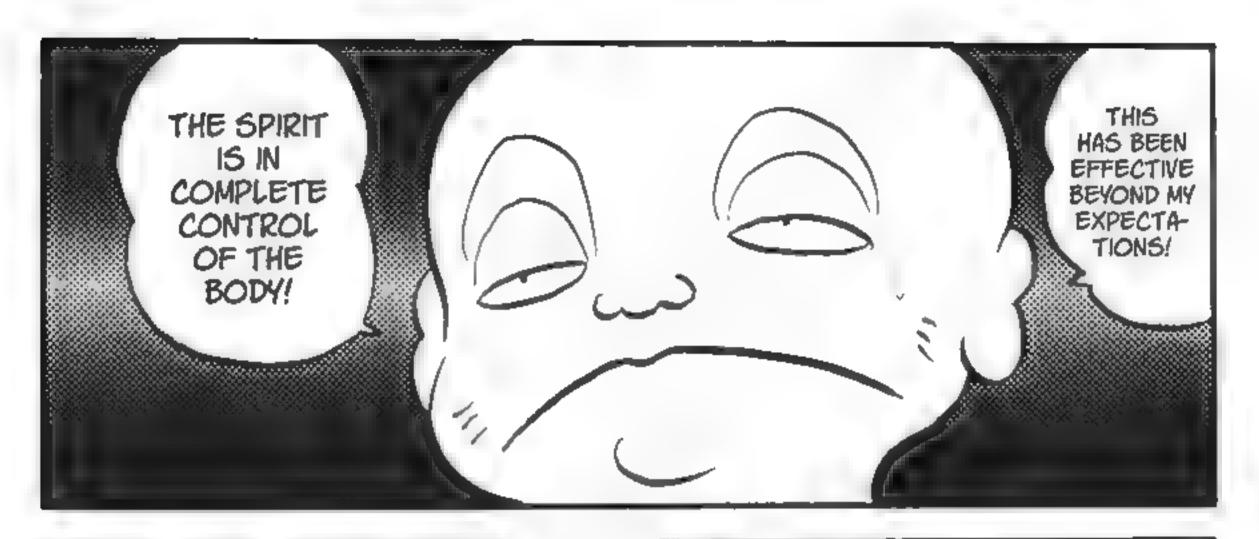














## CHAPTER 11: A TRAGIC DATE



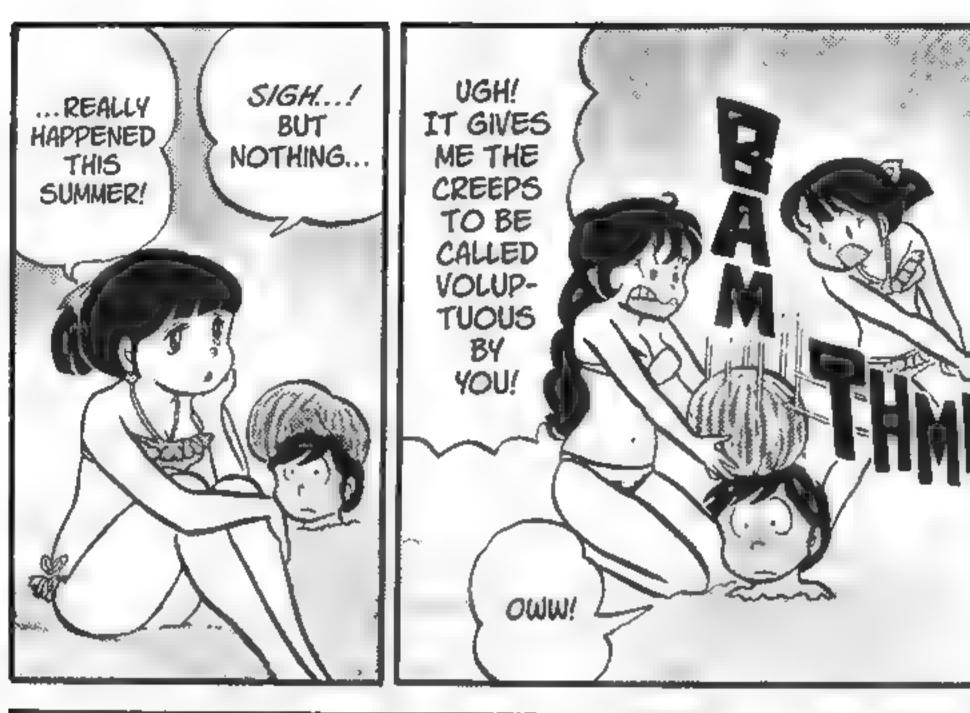












MY

UNIQUE

FIGURE?

WHAT'S

THAT

SUPPOSED

TO

MEAN?







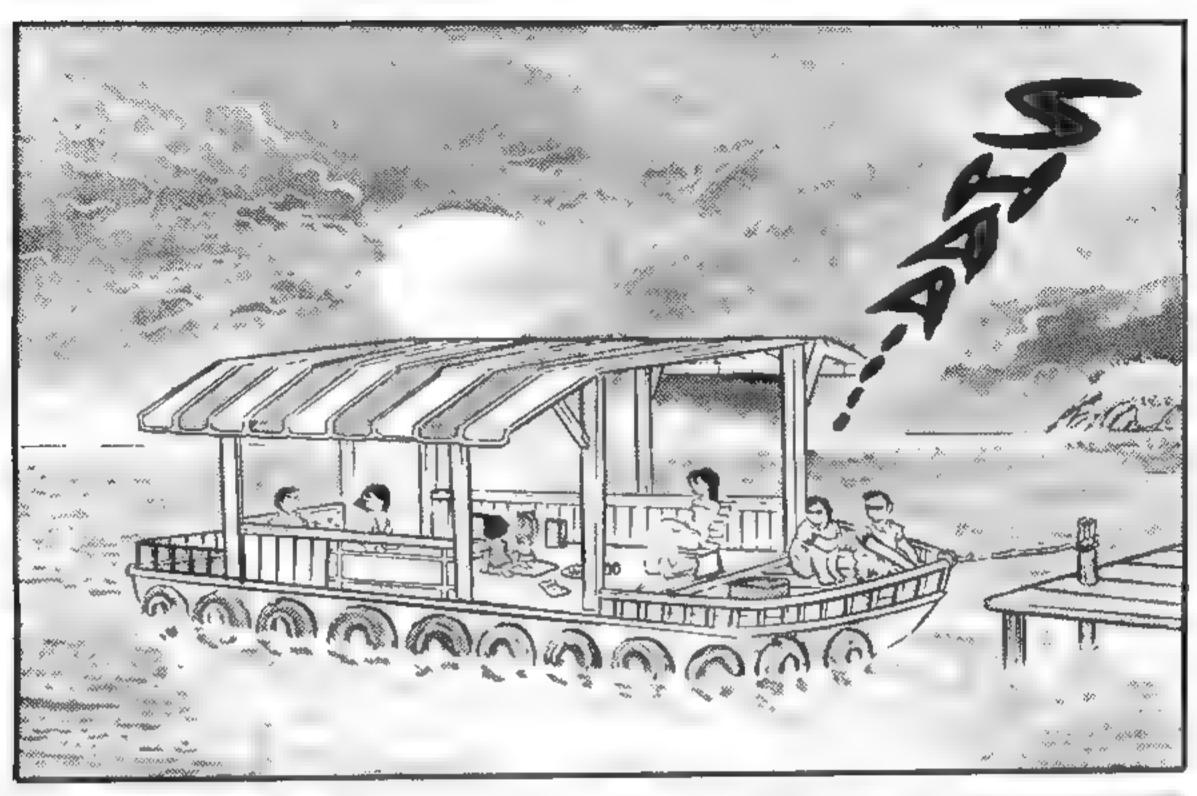




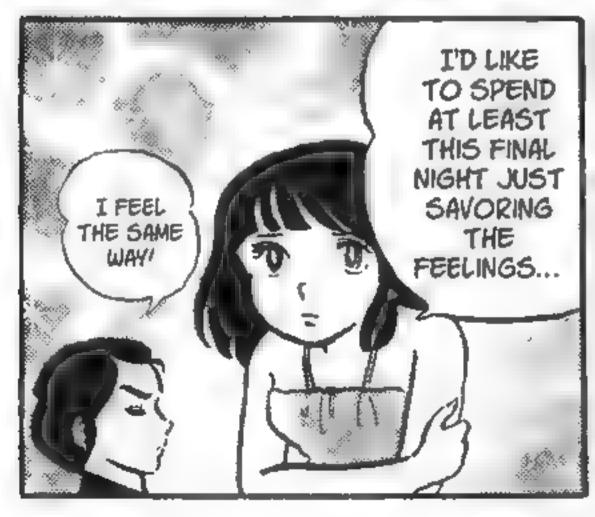






















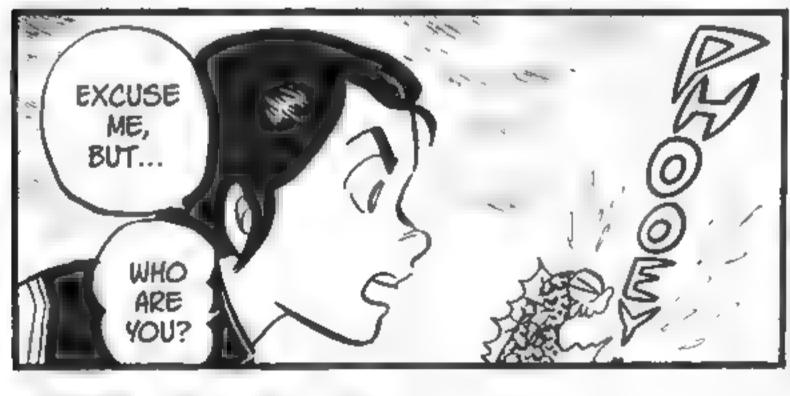


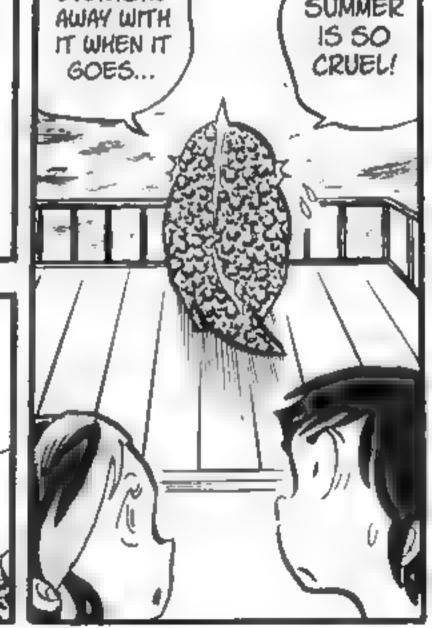






IT TAKES EVERYONE



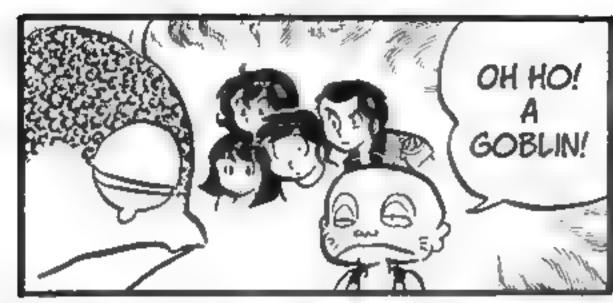






THE

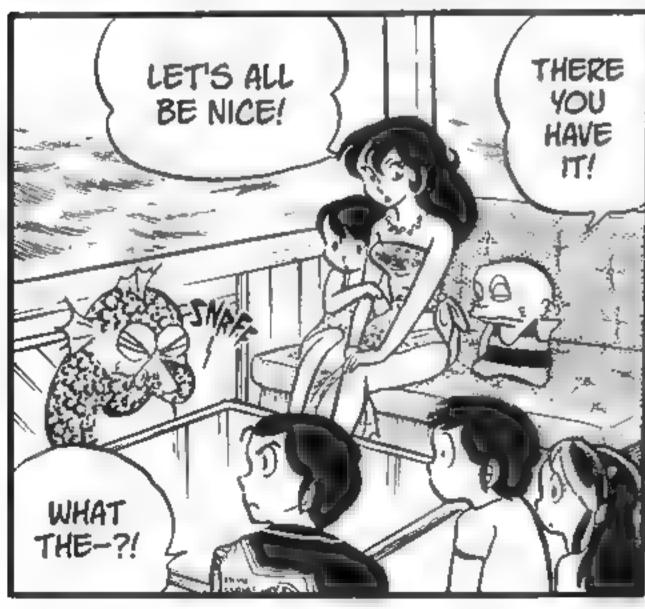
SUMMER



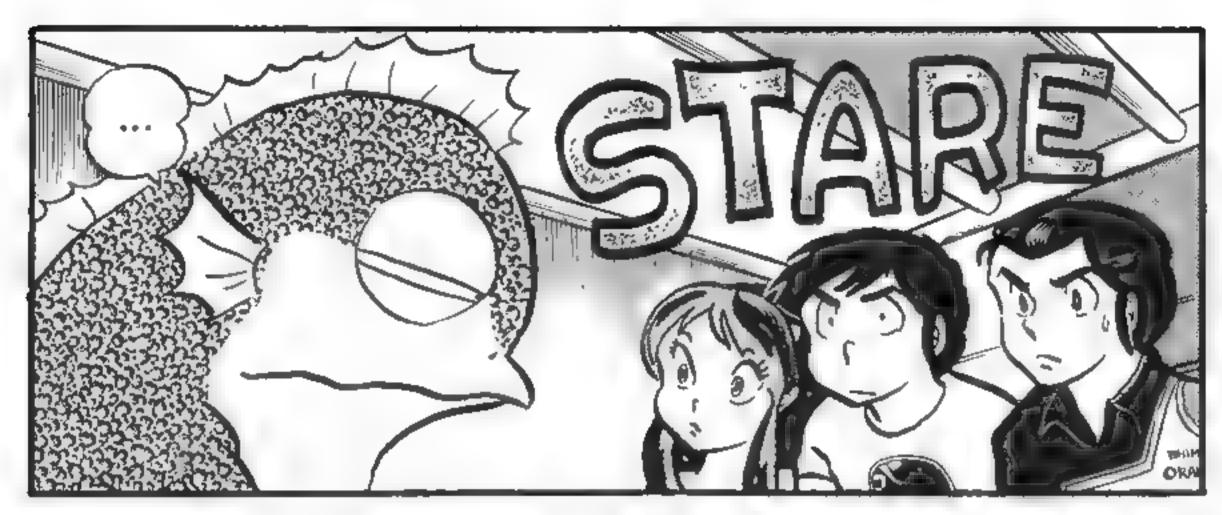




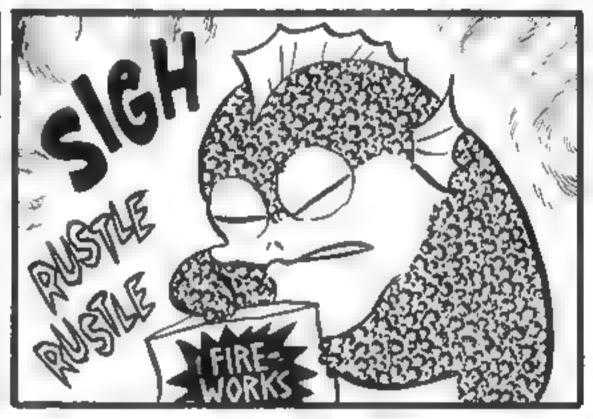














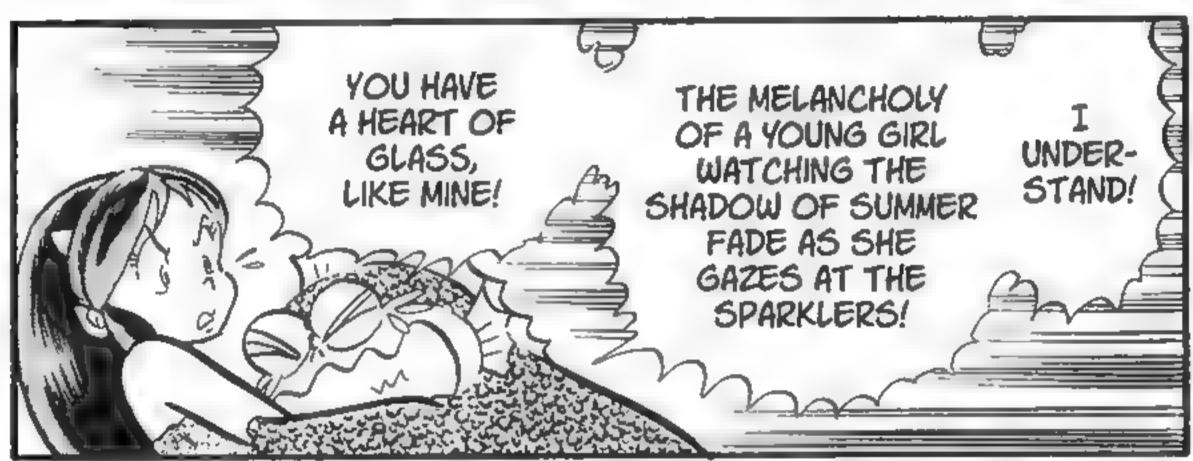






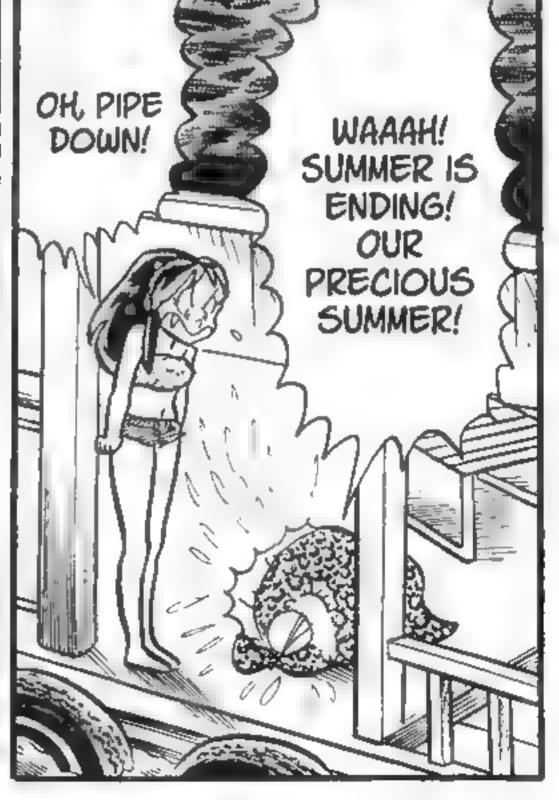






















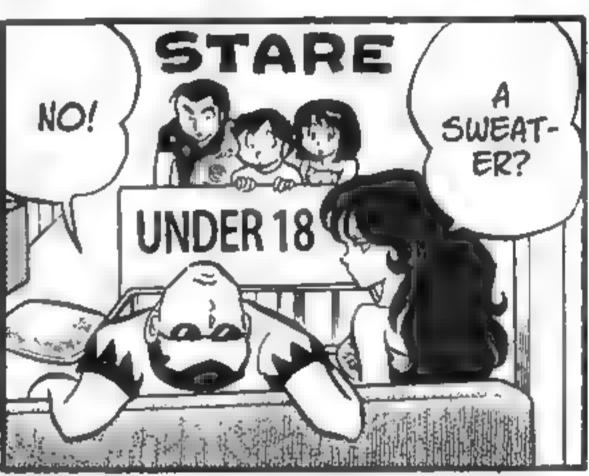






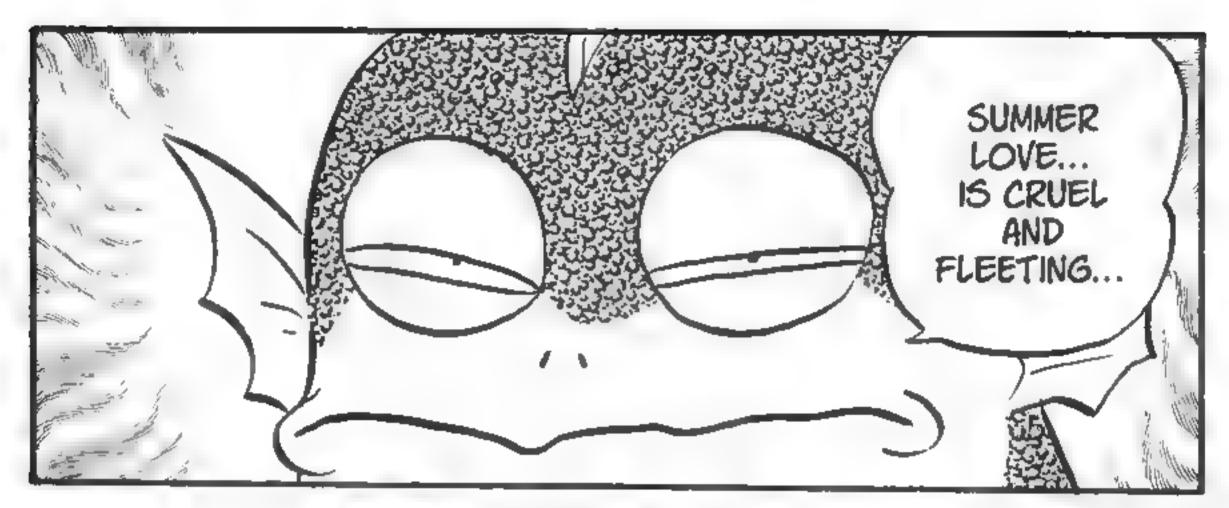
























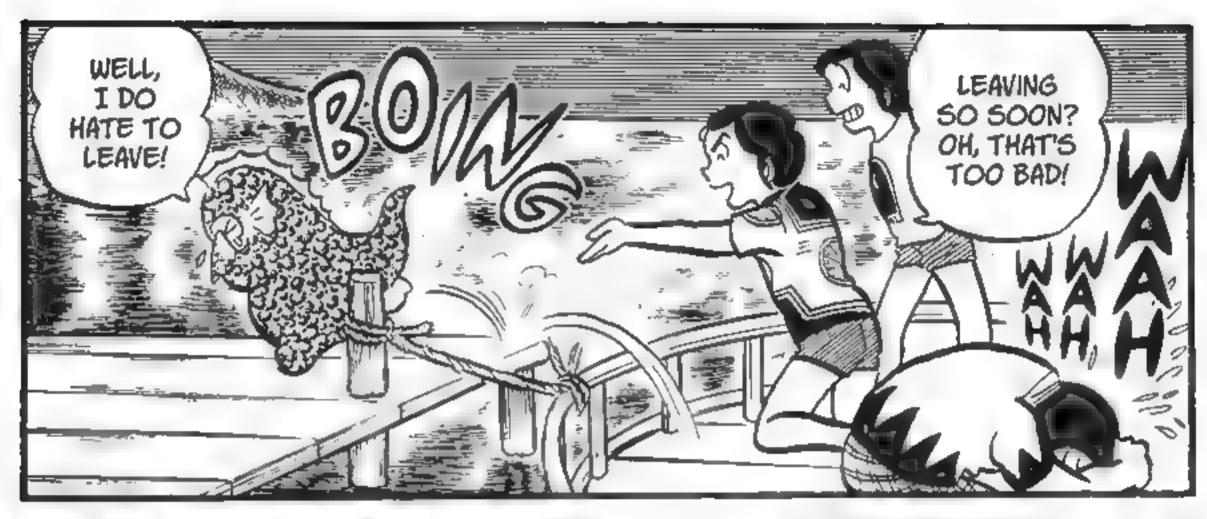






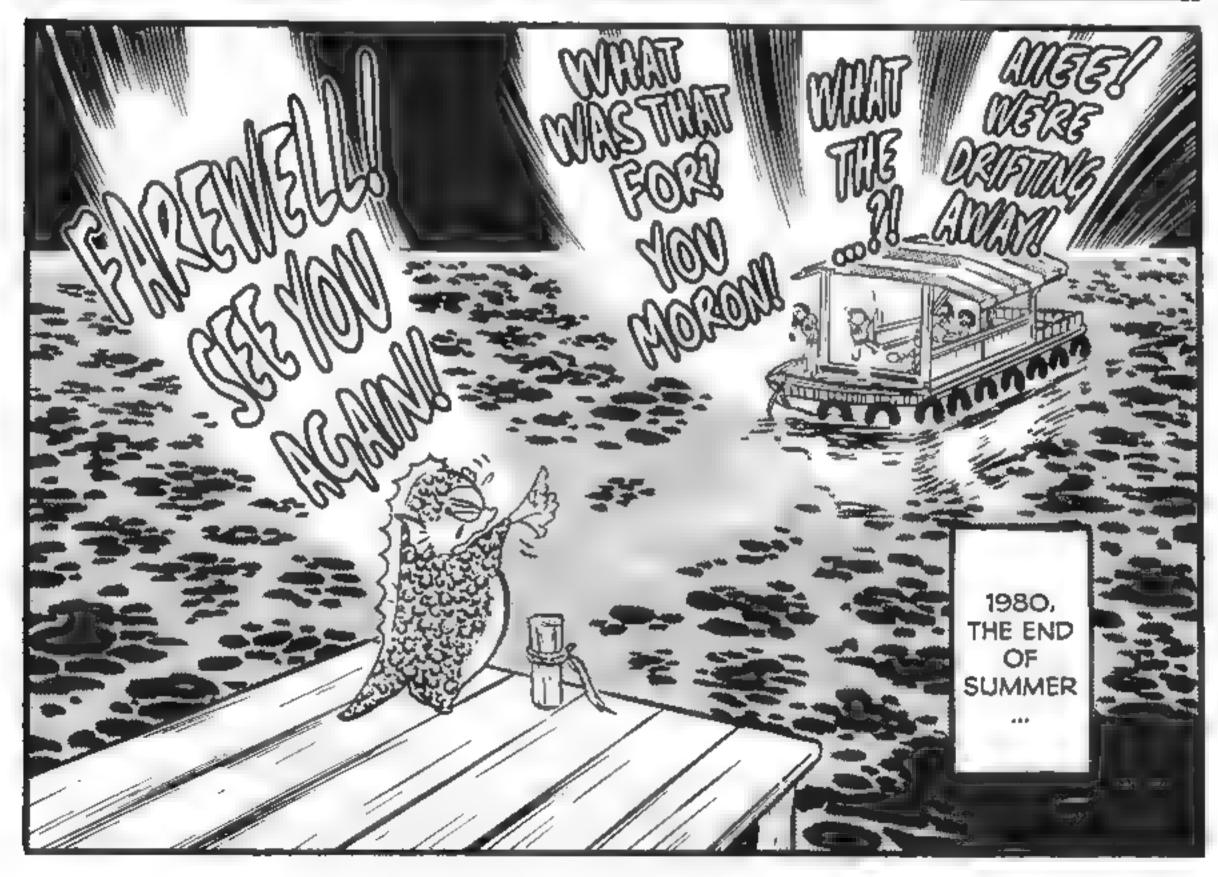












### URUSEI YATSURA \* DATA FILE 05

### Ran's Lovely, Handcrafted Life!

Every bit as cute as Lum, Ran's a beautiful young girl with an affinity for frills. Let's take a deeper look at the fancy details of her everyday life!

One moment she's shouting "You...!" in a thick Kansai dialect and the next she's dressed in a frilly, lacy gown, flashing a dazzling, innocent smile and bewitching those around her. In this edition, we'll take a closer look at Ran's lifestyle.



telephone in her cockpit! (volume 6, chapter 5 "Copy de Date")







Ran likes to fill her surroundings with cute decorations. One example of this is Ran's UFO, which is also her home. In contrast to the mechanical dials and instruments of a spaceship, the interior has been completely redone to suit a young girl with a penchant for fanciness. Her marionette welcome board and soft, lush shag carpeting bring the space together with a feeling of softness.

Even Ataru, who normally only notices cute girls, remarks, "What a cute room!" when he first visits it (volume 3, chapter 22 "Farewell Party Close Call").

Ran's collection of knickknacks includes a floral-pattern teapot and teacups (volume 9, chapter 3 "Anko Pathos, the Taste of Love?!") and even the receiver on her telephone is decorated in a floral pattern (volume 6, chapter 5 "Copy de Date"). Her theme color is undoubtedly a pastel pink.

Ran's fondness for the decorative and ornate is completely unrelated to shifting global and historical trends; she is devoted to a very traditional aesthetic that is widely upheld by ordinary girls and women. Monotone and minimalist design trends may be the vogue, but there will always be a certain percentage of people who prefer the ornamental and baroque.



Thus, while many of the items in Ran's room might seem easy to come by in any department store, there are treasures among them that seem obviously not mass-produced.

◀ Even when running away, Ran wears a dress and apron as she shoves frilly belongings into her bag (volume 11, chapter 6, "Blue-White Flames of Anger, Part 2")



■ Ran leaves an offering for Rei

(volume 8, chapter 5 "Ran, Scent of a Woman, Part 2")



Once, Ran whips up a *bento* lunch box for Rei in a matter of minutes (volume 6, chapter 8 "Studying Mayhem") Also, unable to watch Lum's culinary awkwardness, she admonishes Lum with "This is how we use a knife!" In other scenes, she demonstrates deft expertise at slicing and dicing (volume 13, chapter 17 "House Call"). Ran has quite a knack for cooking indeed.

Lum is handy at crafts, but Ran excels at the full spectrum of homemaker skills. She makes use of those skills here and there in her day-to-day life. A number of the fancy items she owns appear to be homemade.

One of these items is the stuffed Rei doll in Ran's room (volume 9, chapter 3 "Anko Pathos, the Taste of Love?!"). Given that Rei's only redeeming feature is his face, it's quite possible that there are photographs of him that are commercially available. However, a stuffed animal is quite another matter—especially one that shows Rei in his pig-cow form. It seems unlikely that such a niche item could be store bought. We can conclude that Ran sewed it herself, thinking fondly of Rei while lovingly sewing each stitch by hand.

Also, the miniature Ran message dolls that Ran uses sport a wardrobe of matching outfits These dolls, too, must surely be homemade (volume 3, chapter 22 "Farewell Party Close Call").



■ Ran hugs the Rei doll that's always on her bed
(volume 9, chapter 3 "Anko Pathos, the Taste of Love?!")



■ A classic do-it-yourselfer stockpiles food (and weapons)! (volume 17, chapter 16 "Boy Meets Girl, Act 5")

Given that, it seems
likely that the frilly dresses
Ran wears were probably
also handmade from bolts
of cloth. The ultra-fancy
outfits she favors look
expensive—for one thing,
they require more fabric
than a plain dress! Ran isn't
the type to have a part-time
job, so it seems unlikely that
she could afford to buy
such dresses in quantity.

If the dresses are homemade from fabric bought at bargain prices, they might cost less than \$50, including the cost of fabric, zippers and buttons. Sewing her own clothes allows for total freedom of design—Ran can add frills to her heart's content. Fashion is clearly important to Ran, so it would make perfect sense if all of her clothes were homemade.



Ran is so devoted to her love that when Rei howls, "Hangaaa!" she interprets the cry as a request for a food called "hangya." She risks her life to obtain it for him by braving the home of a cannibalistic witch (volume 14, chapter 9 "Picking Hangya").

On the other hand, Ran's disposition is extremely volatile, to the point where her childhood friend Lum laments, "I'm scared of you, Ran, because your personality changes so suddenly!" Ironically, it was childhood experiences with Lum that caused Ran's mercurial nature. Ran was a fairly simple, eager-to-please little girl, and the craftier Lum used this to her advantage, including blaming her own bedwetting on Ran (volume 4, chapter 1 "Memories and a Close Call").



■ Ran blows her top and shows her true colors (volume 13, chapter 4 "Love Hidden in the O-Den")

It was Lum who caused Ran's personality to warp. When others are around, Ran gives off an aura of a vulnerable girl in need of protection, but when it's just her and Lum, she displays an aggressive side that hardly seems like it could belong to the same person. She says, "I'm going to cling to this grudge with everything I've got!" (volume 4, chapter 1 \*Memories and a Close Call\*), "I'm going to do it today, whatever it takes!" and "I'll stop at nothing!" (volume 4, chapter 2 "Genuine Close Call").

Ran also has a generous stockpile of weapons, including the copied gun she uses to wrest Ataru from Lum (volume 6, chapter 5 "Copy de Date") and the bazooka she uses to get sakura mochi (volume 16,

chapter 3 "Sakura Mochi over Flowers"). The message doll modeled after Ran's own likeness is actually a miniature bomb. Ran's abilities as a warrior are quite strong, in correspondence with her aggressive personality and arsenal of weapons.

On the other hand, it would be inaccurate to conclude that Ran has a masculine side belied by her appearance. In fact, the temperamental range she exhibits is an attribute of her true femininity. Every girl has a dark side...

Ran may seem like an extreme character with her tough core concealed by a frilly, cute exterior, but she's actually just as she appears: the girliest character of all.



▶ But that's what's cute about Ran! (volume 11, chapter 5 "Blue-White Flames of Anger, Part 1")

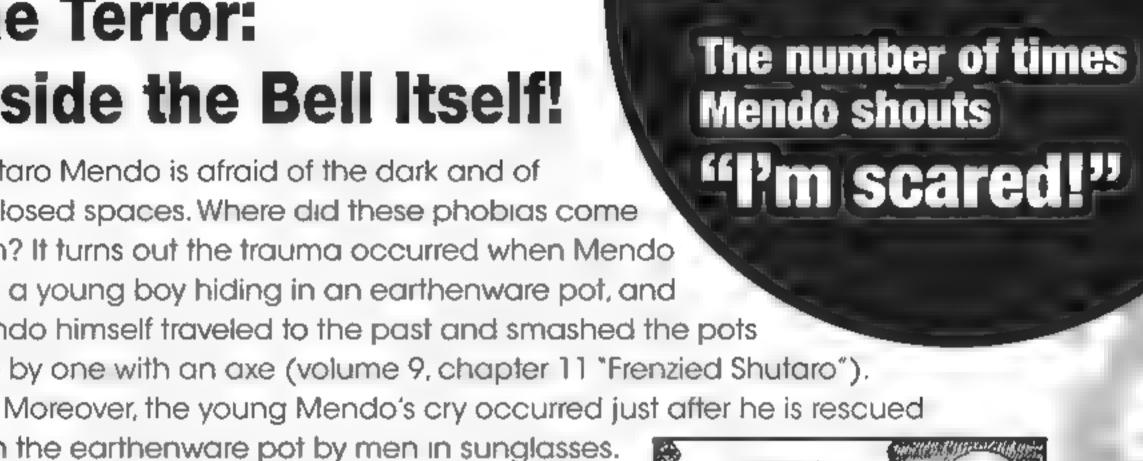
### The Scene of the Terror: Inside the Bell Itself!

Shutaro Mendo is afraid of the dark and of enclosed spaces. Where did these phobias come from? It turns out the trauma occurred when Mendo was a young boy hiding in an earthenware pot, and Mendo himself traveled to the past and smashed the pots one by one with an axe (volume 9, chapter 11 "Frenzied Shutaro").

from the earthenware pot by men in sunglasses. It seems a reasonable exclamation under the circumstances, darkness and cramped conditions notwithstanding.

#### Will his trauma ever heat?!

Mendo's symptoms abate when women are present, but they occur in the presence of Fujinami when she's dressed as a male (volume 9, chapter 5 "Buried Classroom"). This is the only time he cries out in fear in front of a girl. If Mendo doesn't realize that he's in darkness, then his phobia doesn't present itself (volume 10, chapter 6 \*Oh, Night Shops"). In other words, his trauma is triggered by his own conscious mind. As long as Mendo remains a moron on par with Ataru, there's a chance his phobias might be completely cured one day.



Urusei Yatsura: 366 Stories in Alli

*<b>AUAMAA* 

We counted

them up!

HEY!

The rare occasion when Mendo loses his cool in front of a girl (volume chapter 5 "Buried Classroom")

WAAAH!

IT'S DARK!

IT'S CRAMPED!

I'M SCARED!



Locked up by his younger sister Ryoko (volume 6, chapter 19 "Mendo Siblings! Part 1")

Total Number of Times Mendo Cries, "I'm scared!"...... Places where Mendo Cries "I'm scared!"

In a mirror (13 times), in a dark room (seven times), in a cave (three times), in a locker (three times), in a pot (three times), in a basket (twice) and others (five times)

#### The other five times:

In a small enclosure made of cake at the top of a giant cake (volume 11, chapter 1 "Secret Spot! Palatial Cake of Horrors"), in a haunted house (volume 10, chapter 6 "Oh, Night Shops"), buried in the ground, in the arms of one of the men in sunglasses at the Mendo residence (volume 9, chapter 11 "Frenzied Shutaro"), pinned under an iron beam (volume 11, chapter 15 "That Mizunokoshi Girl, Part 4")

Author: Kyoko Sugimori Concept: Masatake Sugimori

### Part 5 Notes

The setting of *Urusei Yatsura* is in Japan, with references to history, cultural holidays, beliefs and practices. Check out the notes below to enrich your reading experience.

Page 3 - *Urusei Yatsura*, the title of this series, means "obnoxious people." The *sei* in "Urusei" uses the kanji character for "star."

Page 7, panel 1 - Sensei is an honorific title used to address teachers as well as professionals such as doctors, lawyers and artists.

Page 15, panels 3-4 - In Japanese culture, one superstitious belief dictates that if you sneeze, others are talking about you behind your back.

Page 20, panel 3 – Sakura is wearing *hakama*, a traditional trouser-like piece of clothing that is tied at the waist and worn over kimono. Shrine priestesses like Sakura wear a plain white kimono with bright red hakama.

Page 35, panel 4 – In the Japanese edition, Ataru exclaims, "Engacho!" which is an incantation used to ward off something dirty. It is usually accompanied by a crossed-fingers gesture.

Page 35, panel 4 - The umbrella spirit here is an iteration of *kasa obake*, a mythical supernatural being in Japanese folklore. It is typically depicted as having one eye, a long tongue and one leg that it jumps around with.

Page 48, panel 2 – In the Japanese edition, the girl says that Ataru looks like Hoichi the Earless, a well-known character from Japanese mythology. In the tale, a priest writes sutras all over the blind minstrel Hoichi so that Hoichi would not be visible to a samurai ghost that was haunting him. Unfortunately, the priest did not write the sutras on Hoichi's ears, so the samurai ghost sees them and rips them off. Still, Hoichi recovered and went on to become a famous musician.

**Page 53, panel 6** – The boy says that Ataru looks like a human version of *kintaro* ame, a type of cylindrical hard candy that, when sliced at any point, displays the face of the Kintaro character from Japanese mythology.

Page 54, panel 4 – The Ataru physics notes are available at 50 yen—or about 50 cents—per sheet!

Page 57, panel 7 - The antiquated clothing that the boys on the right don as well as Mendo's comment reference the Japanese folktale of Urashima Taro, a fisherman who saves a turtle from kids who are toying with it.

Page 91, panel 5 - In Japanese culture, nosebleeds are considered a symptom of arousal.

Page 98, panel 5 - In the Japanese edition, Cherry yells, "Katsu!" which is a vocal exclamation meant to admonish a Zen Buddhist practitioner as well as to induce initial enlightenment in a student. It is used as a means to focus energy, and Cherry's shout is so powerful that Shinobu's bikini top loosens.

Page 182, panel 2 – Sakura and the young man are exchanging business cards, a practice that is considered necessary etiquette when meeting someone for the first time.

Page 187 – Ran's use of "Ondoryaaa" (which is a rough way to address people) in the Japanese edition shows her hostile and confrontational side. The Kansai dialect is spoken in the western region of Japan and is considered more informal than standard Japanese.

Page 189 - A *bento* is a homemade lunch box that may contain rice, meat, pickles and an assortment of side dishes. Often the food is arranged in such a way as to resemble objects like animals, flowers, leaves, and so forth.

Page 191 – Sakura mochi is a sweet made with pink-colored mochi (rice cake) and has red bean paste on the inside. It is wrapped in a pickled sakura (cherry blossom) leaf and is traditionally eaten during the spring.

# Urusei Yatsura

# Urusei Votsura Yatsura

## Part 6



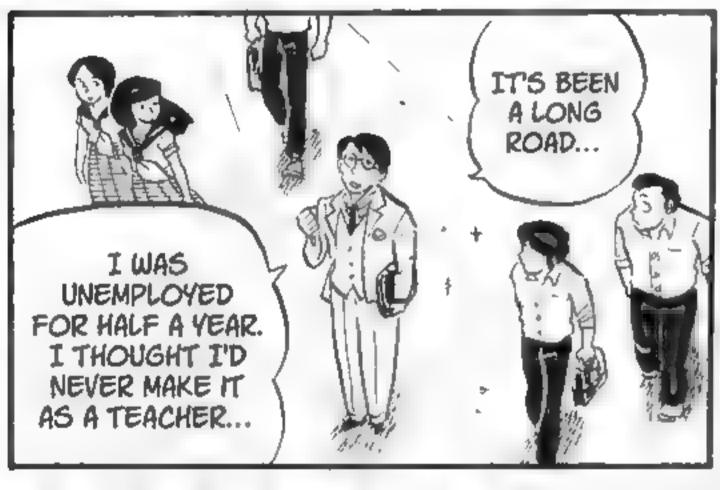
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## CHAPTER 12: PRIVATE LESSON



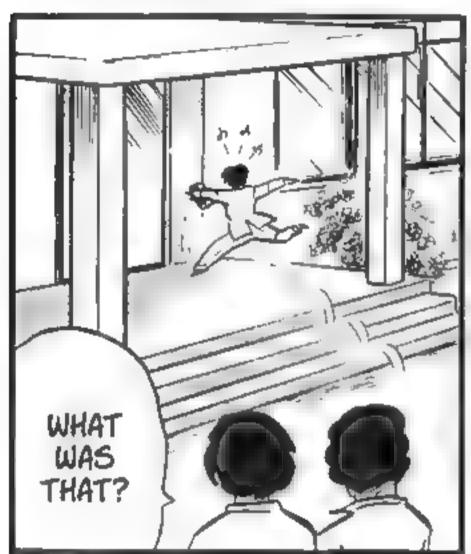


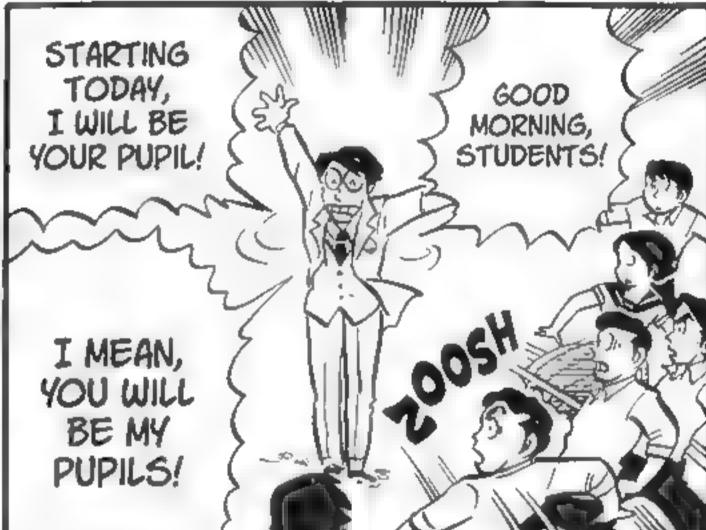


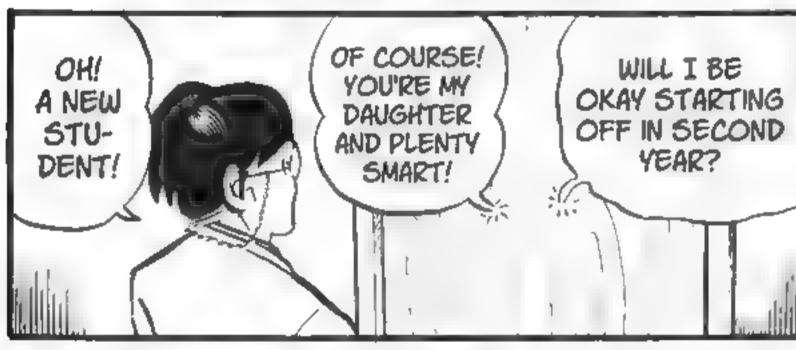
















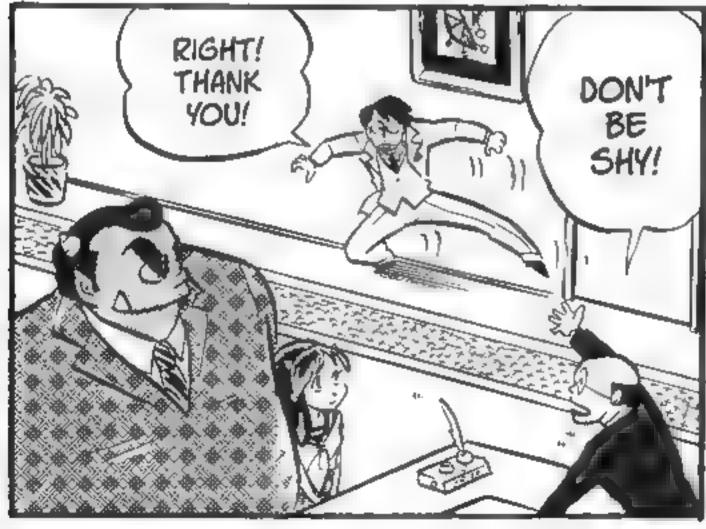










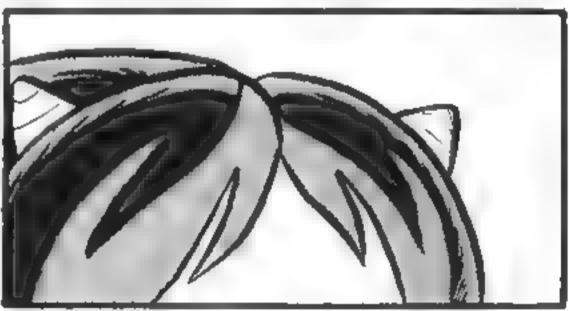




























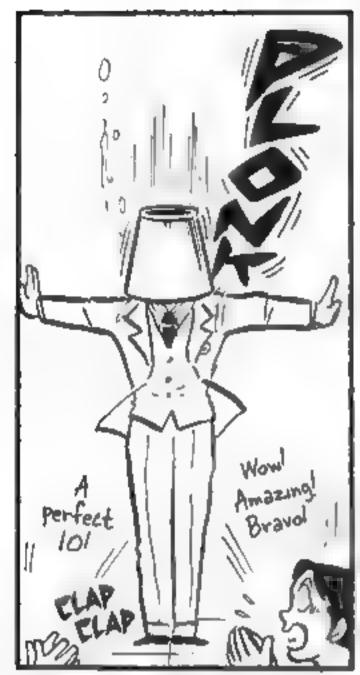










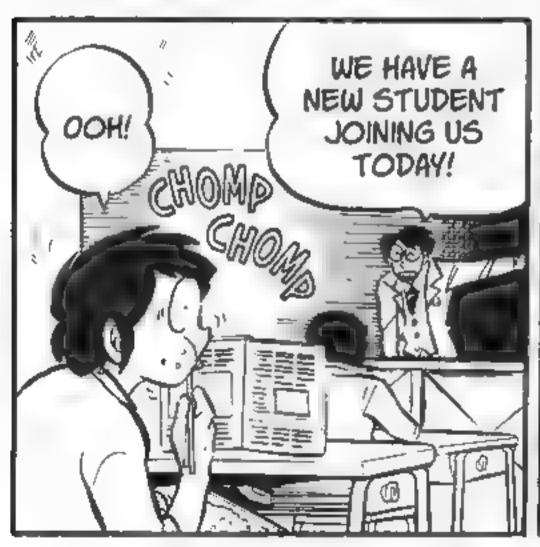






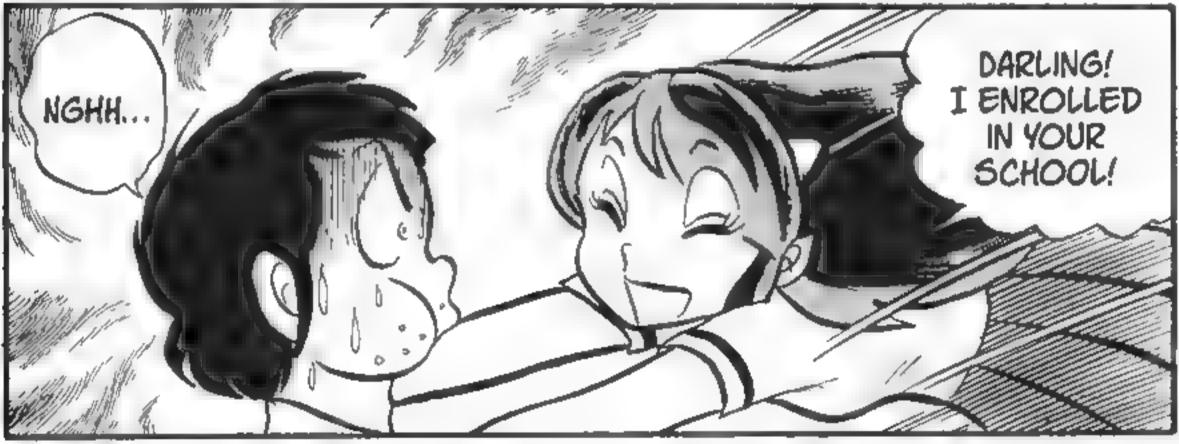








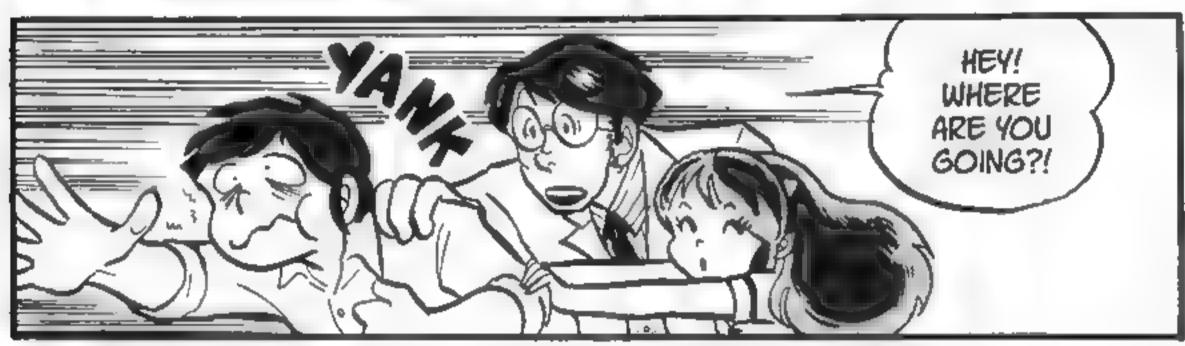




















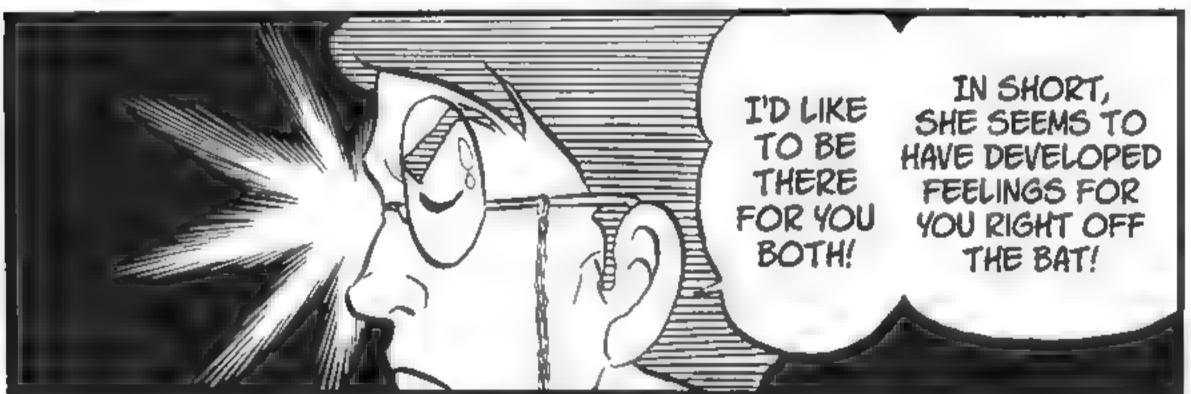






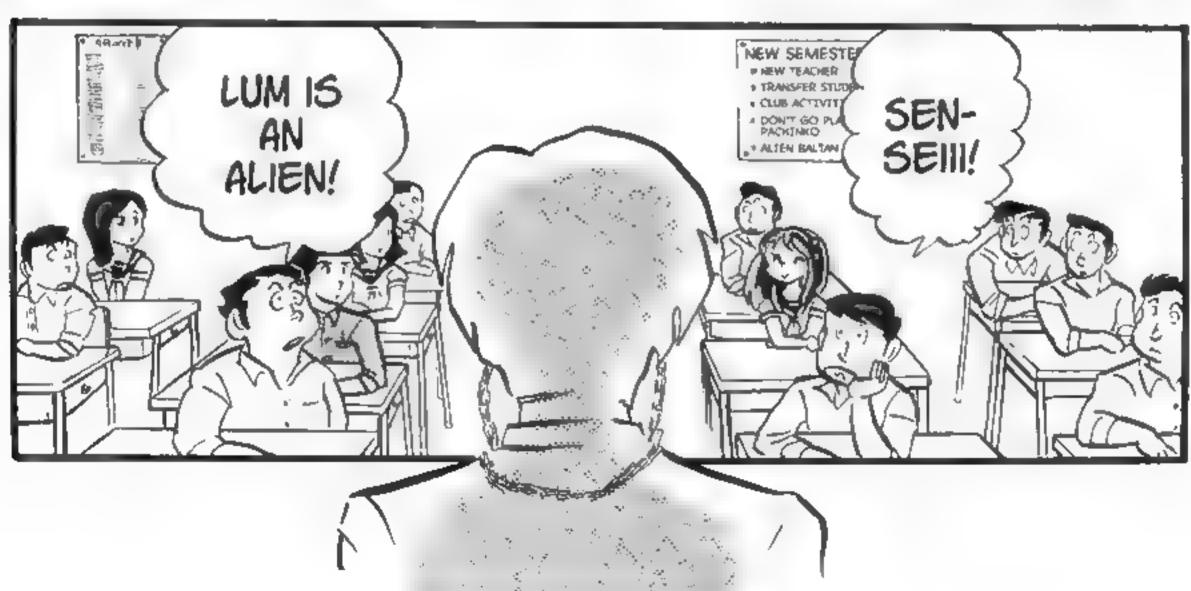
















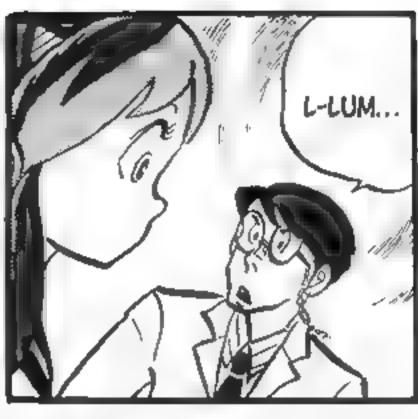




















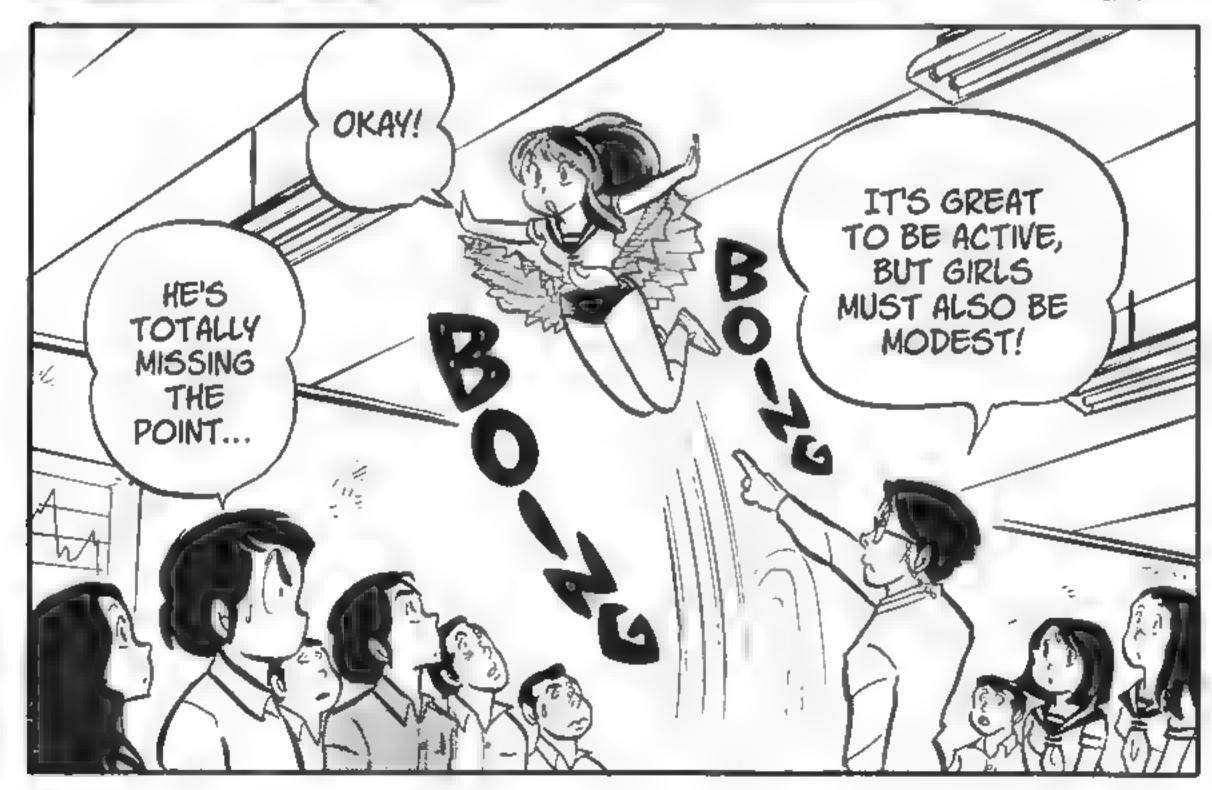






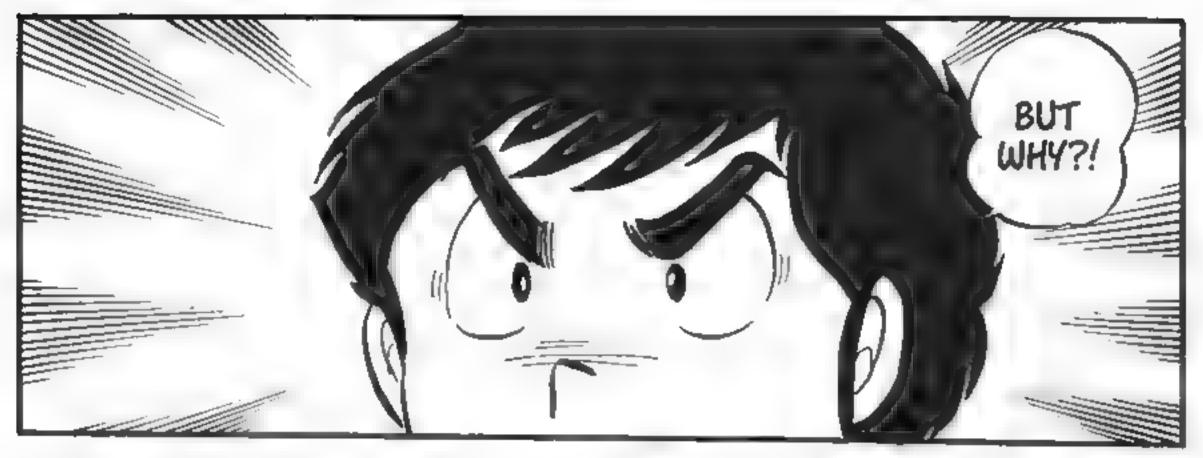






## CHAPTER 13: NO CRYING ON THE COURT











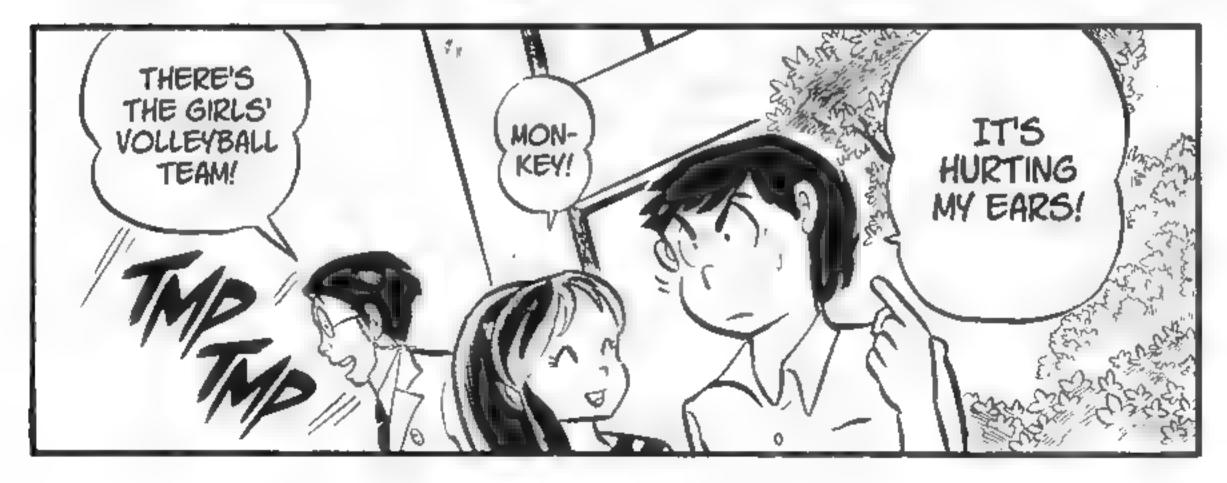












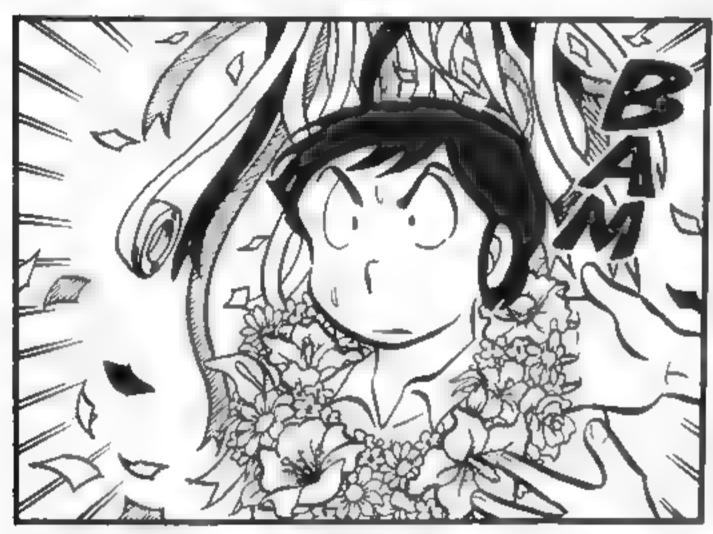










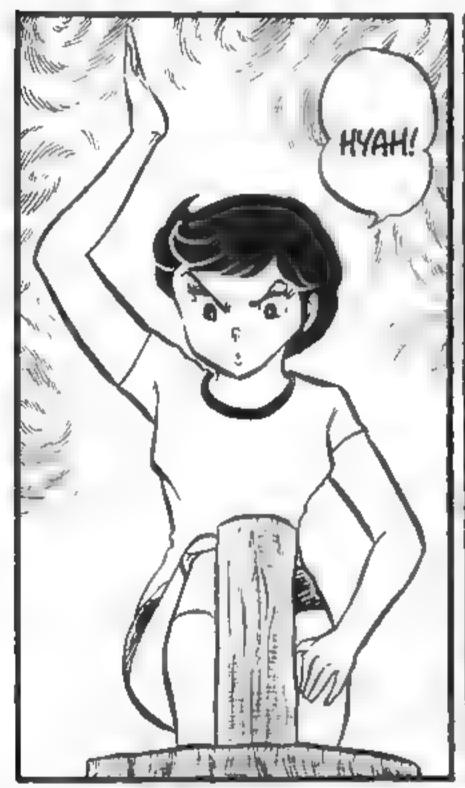
























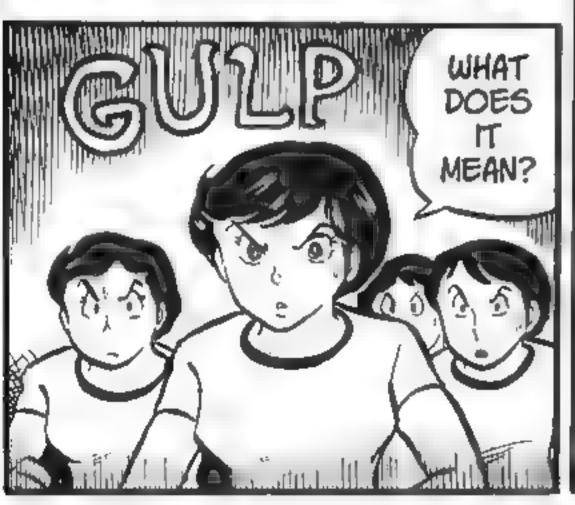










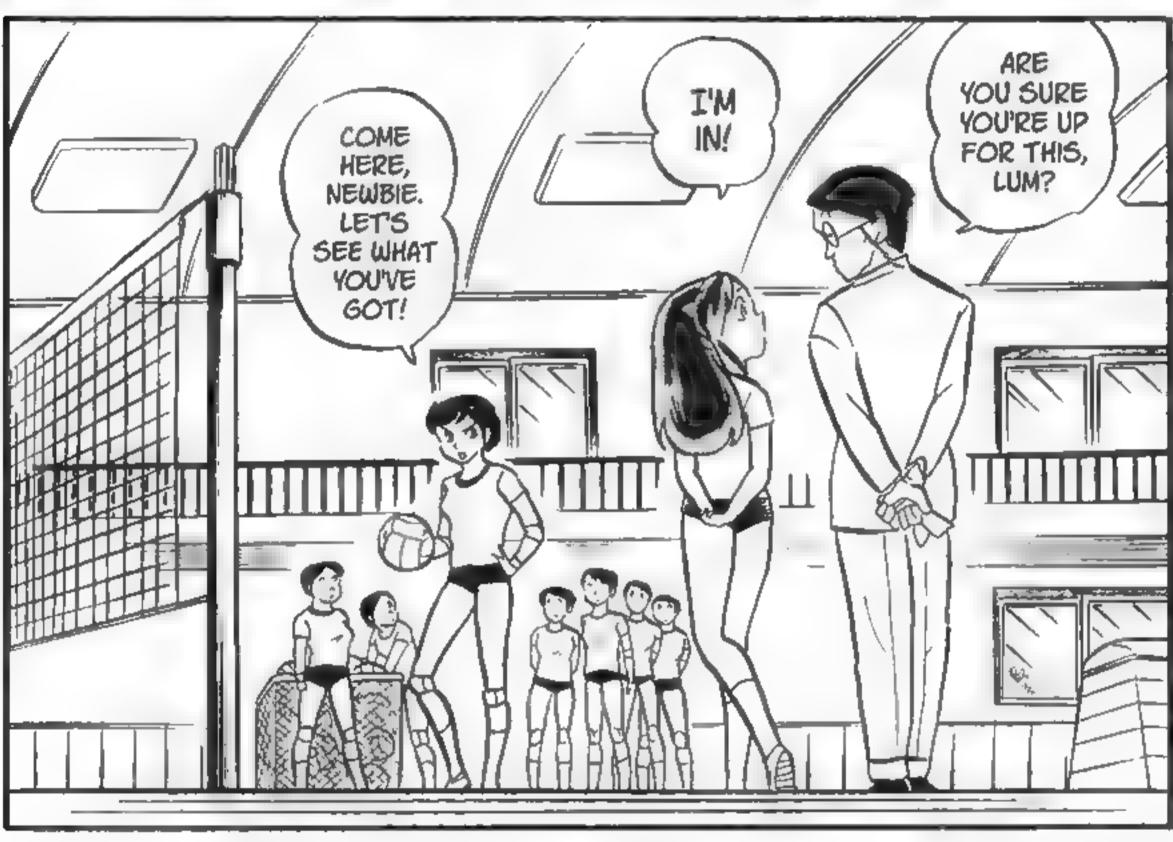












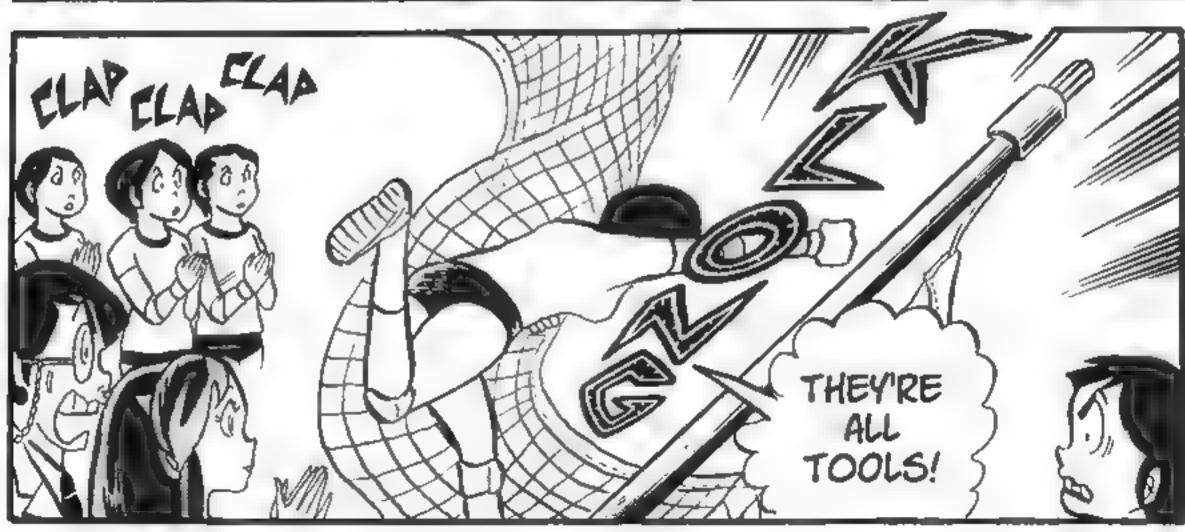




























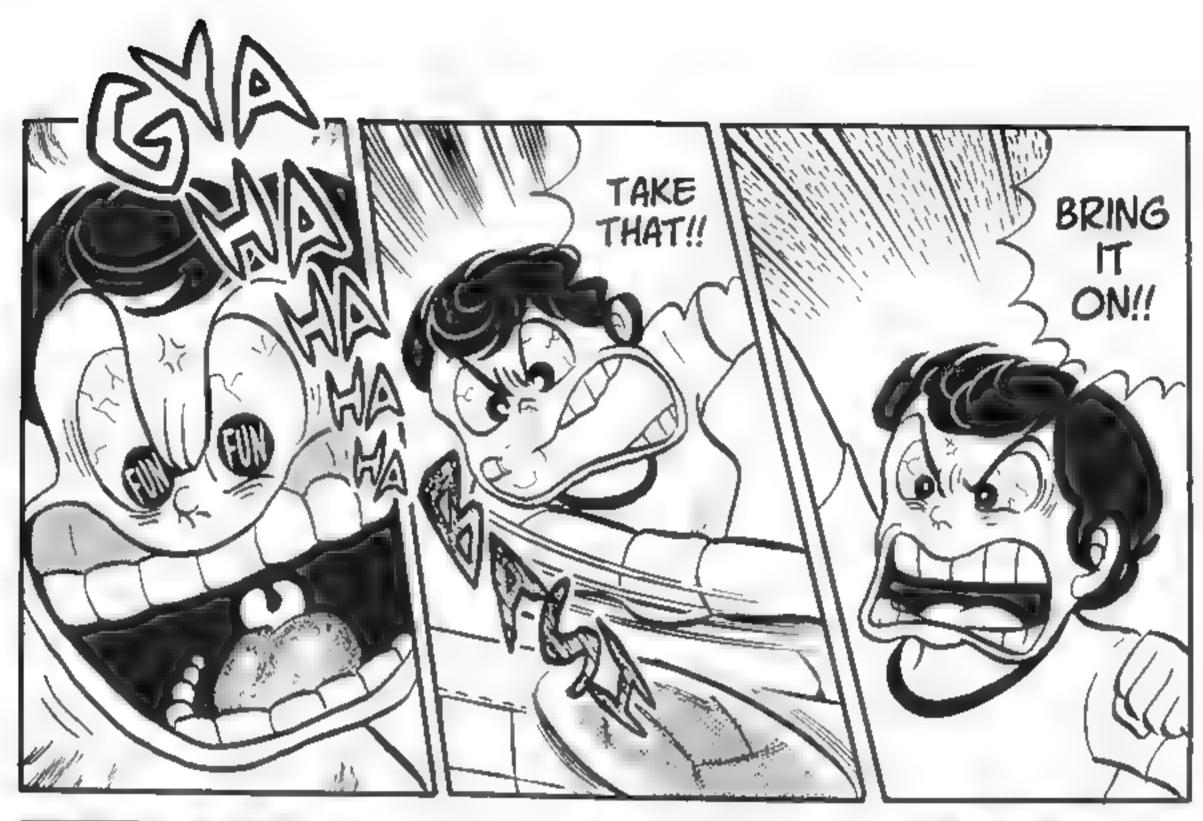






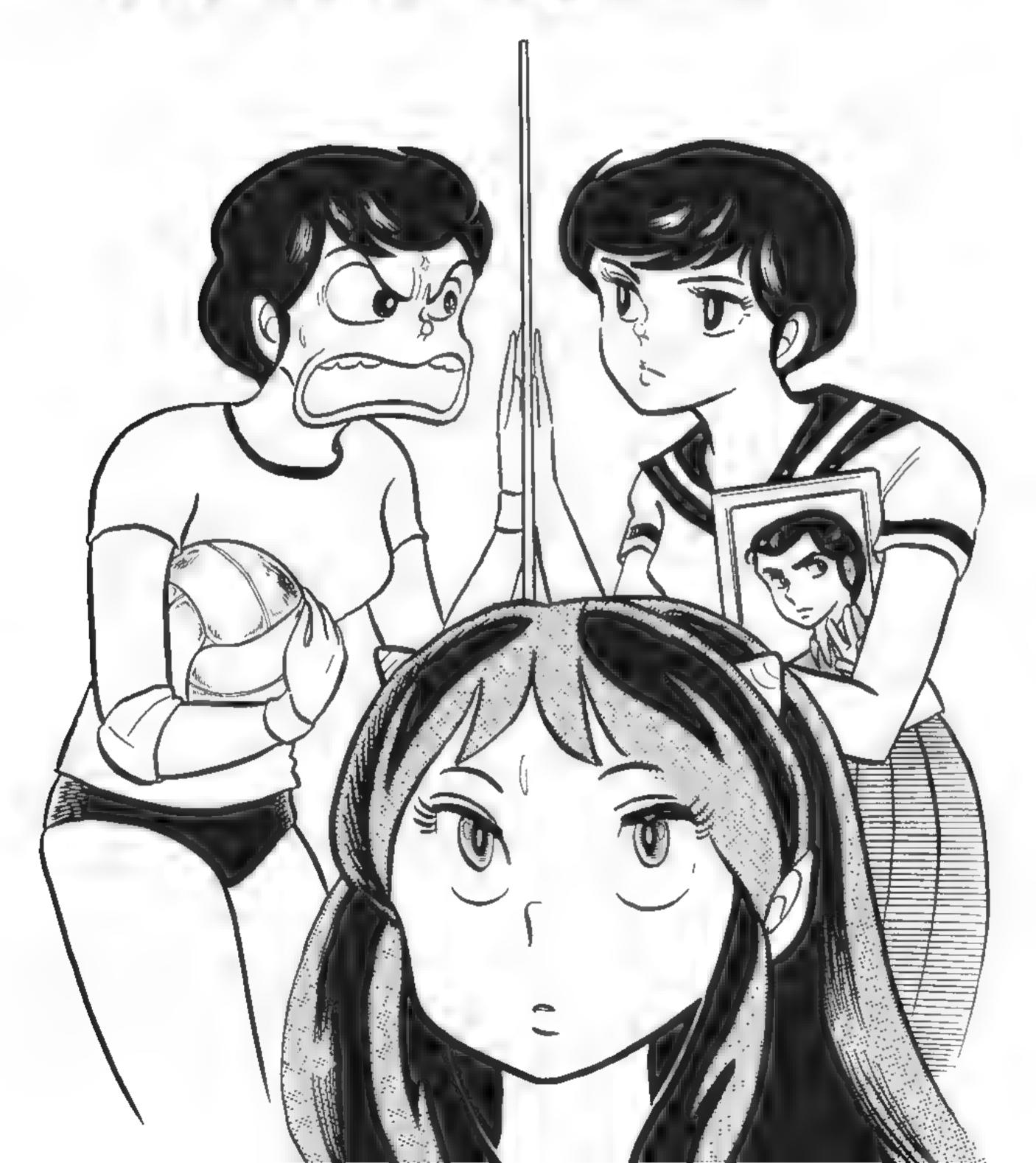


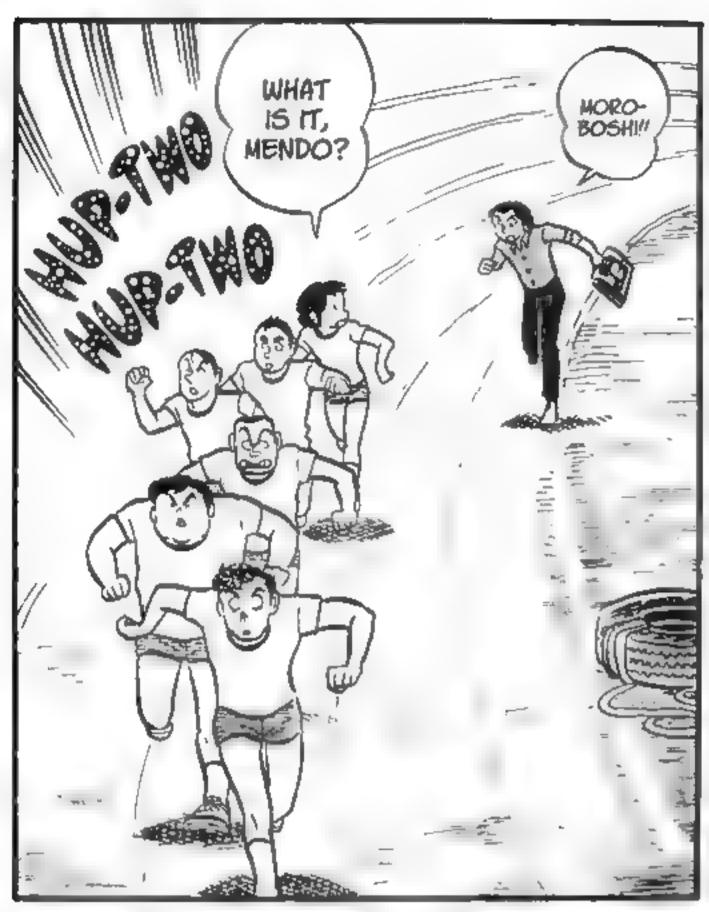


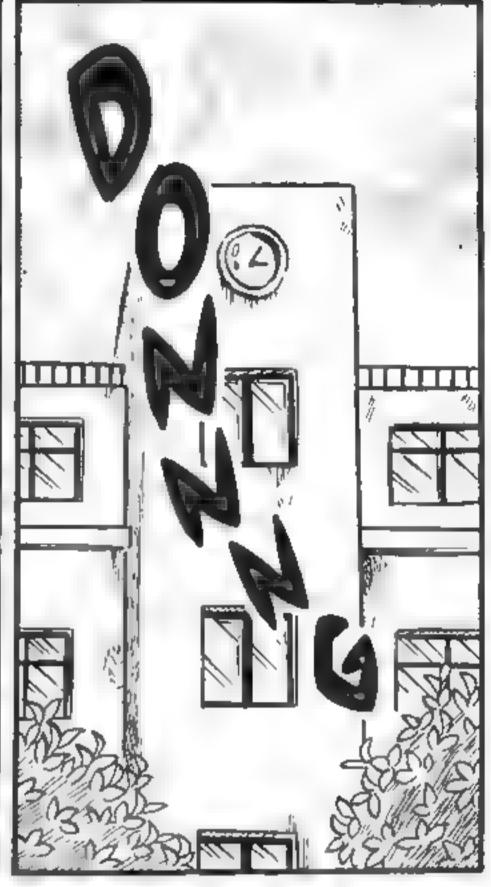




## CHAPTER 14: LOVE DISAPPEARS ON THE COURT





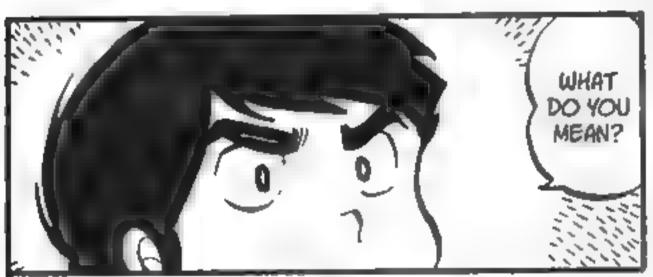










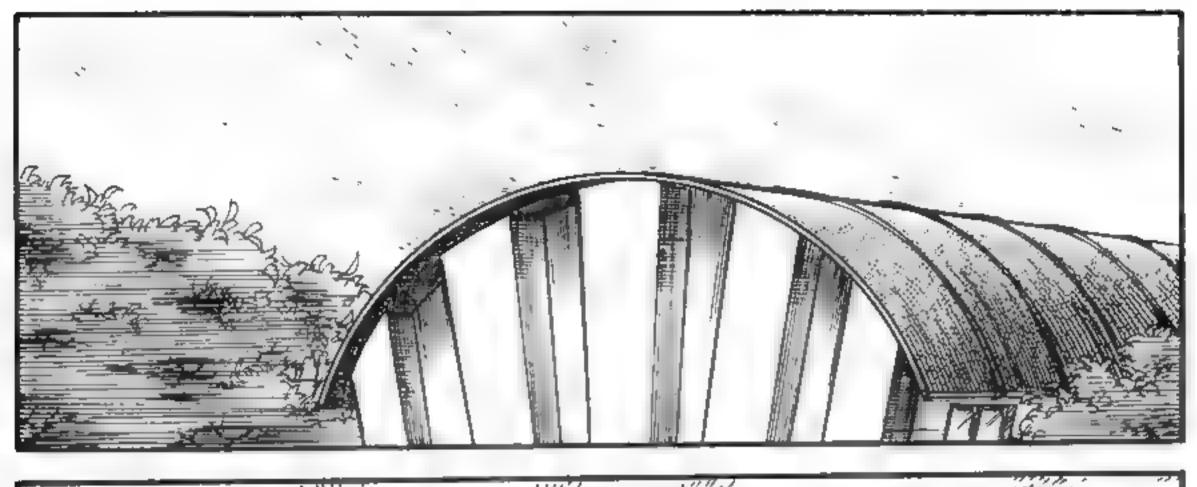


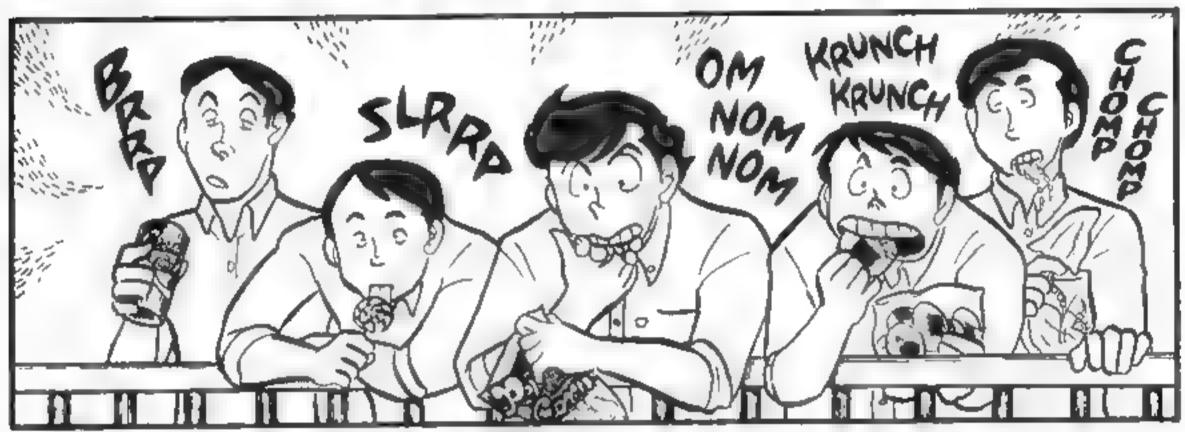






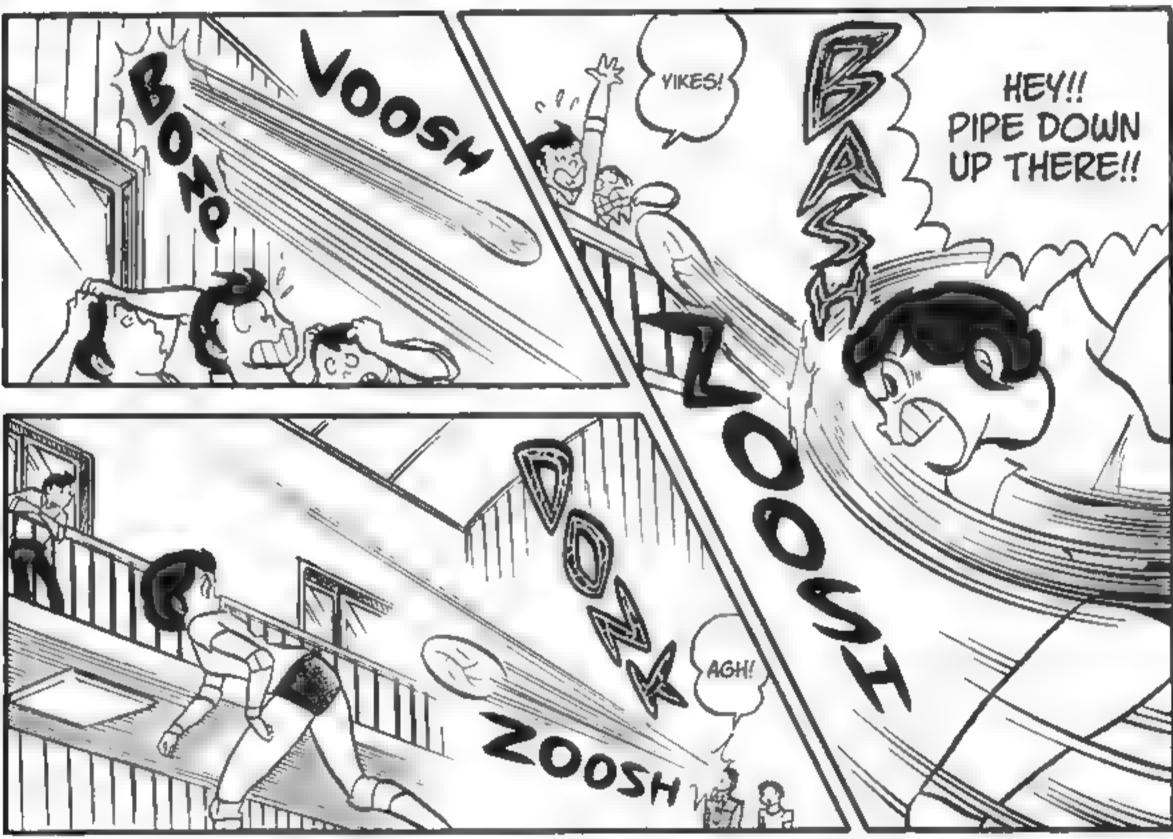


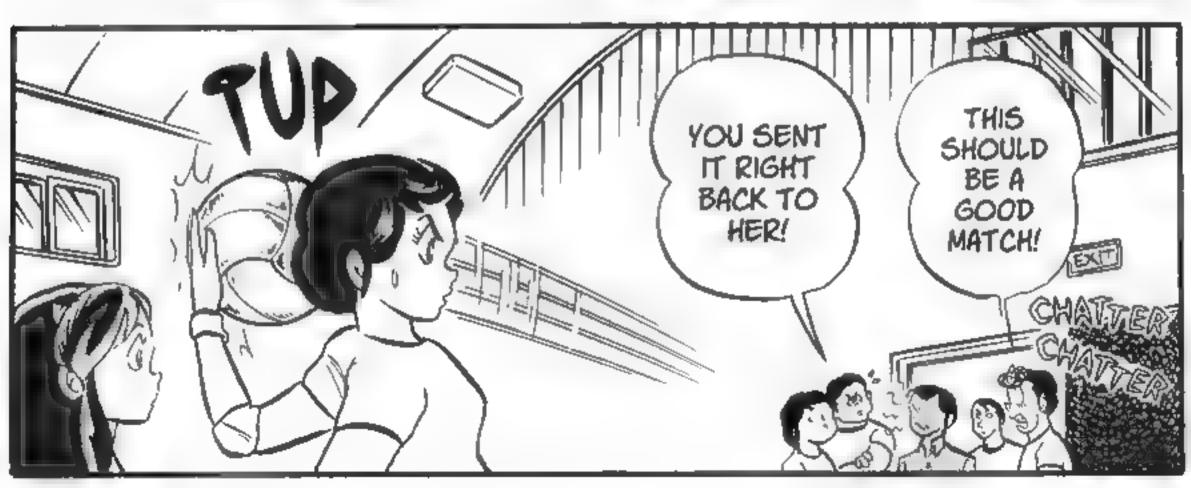
















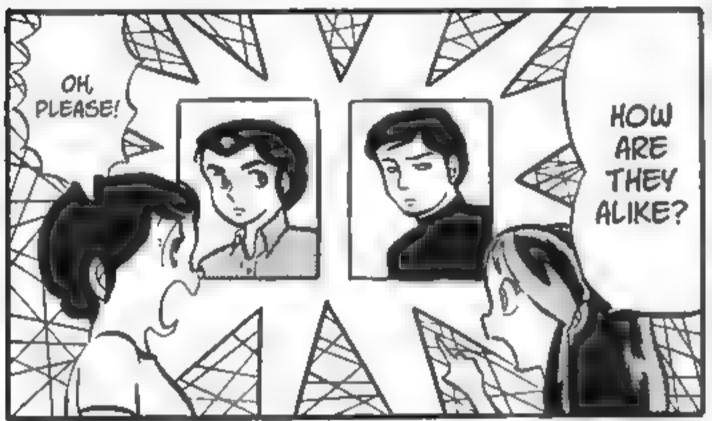










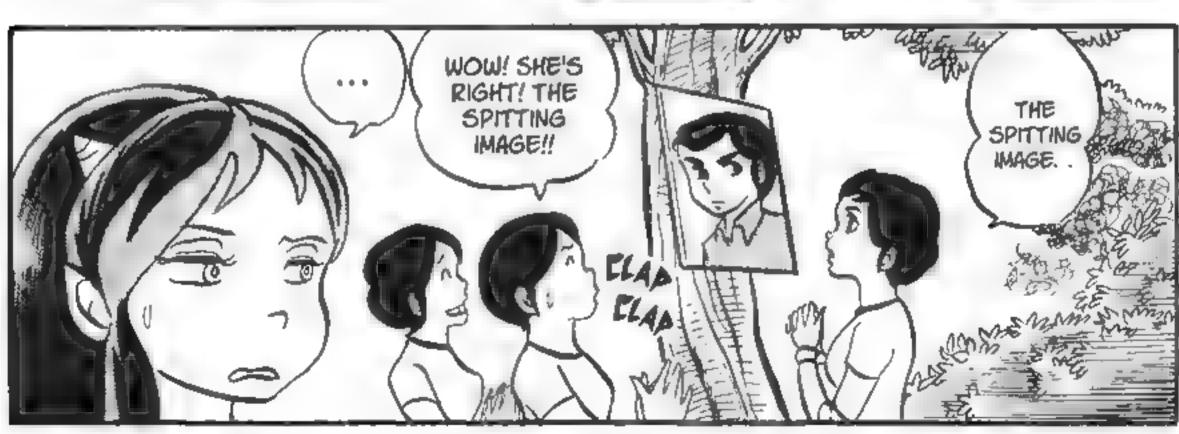


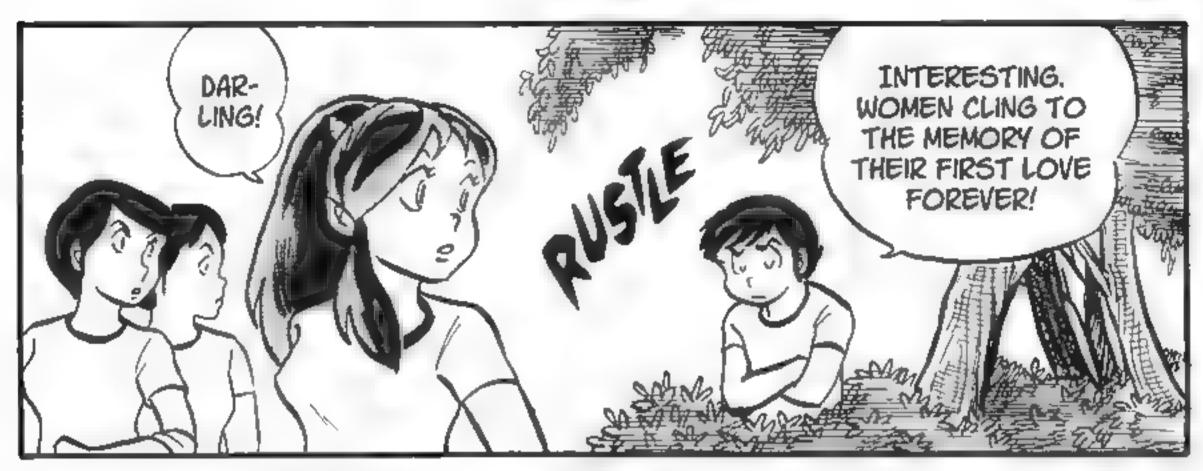






















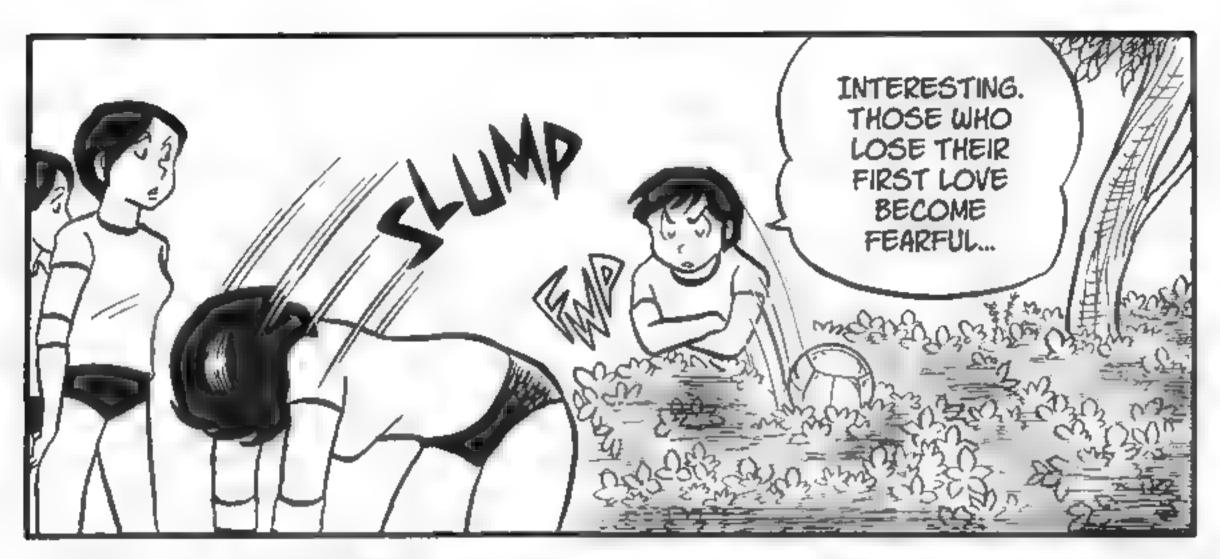








































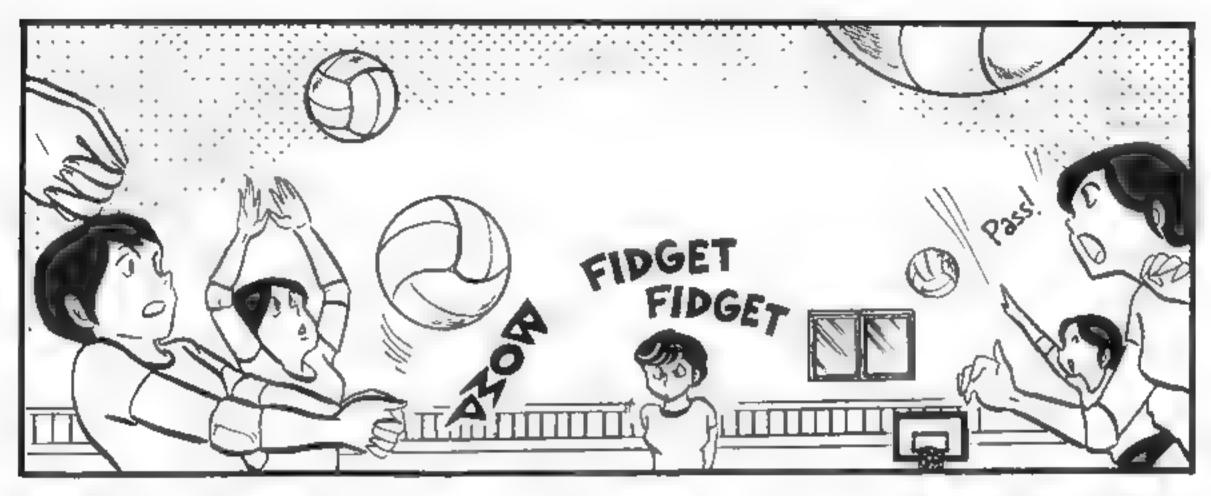


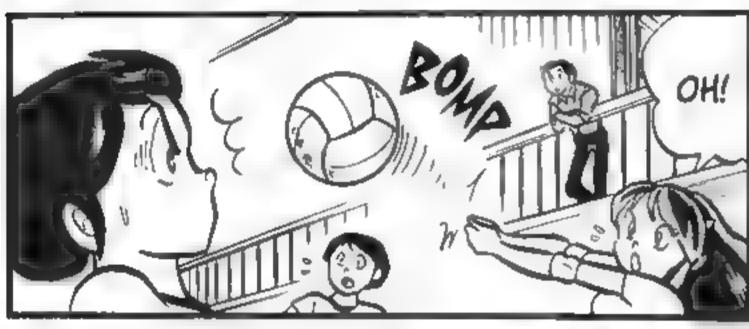




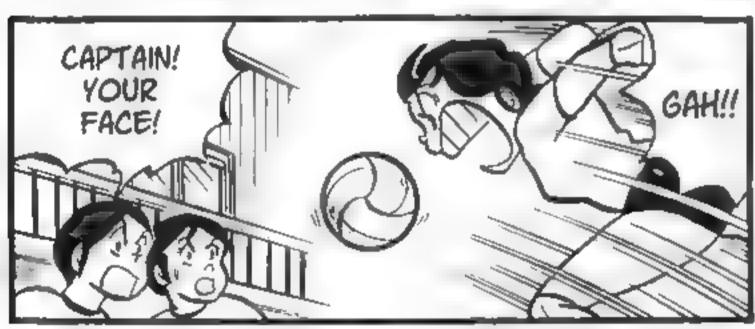


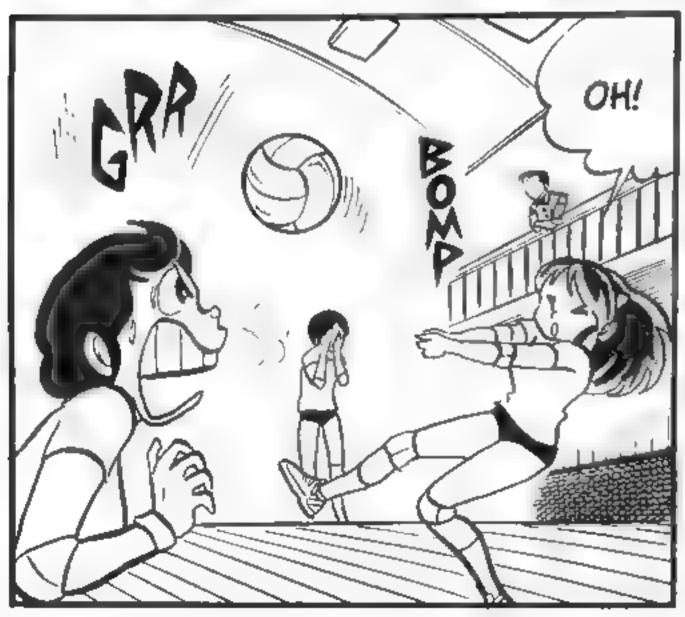
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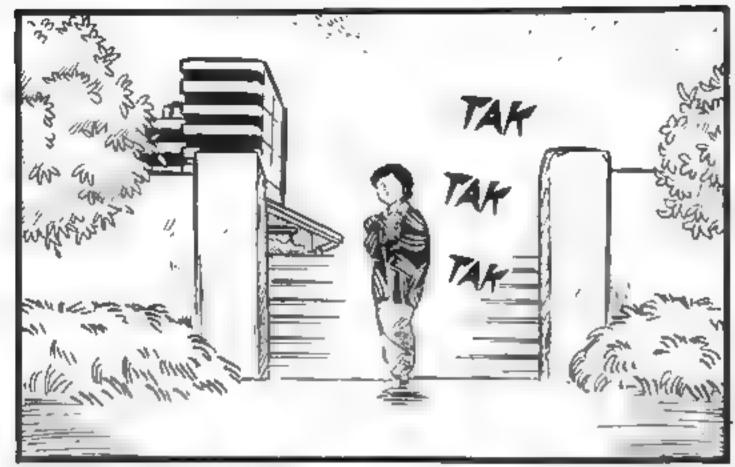






## CHAPTER 15: PARENTS' DAY HORRORS























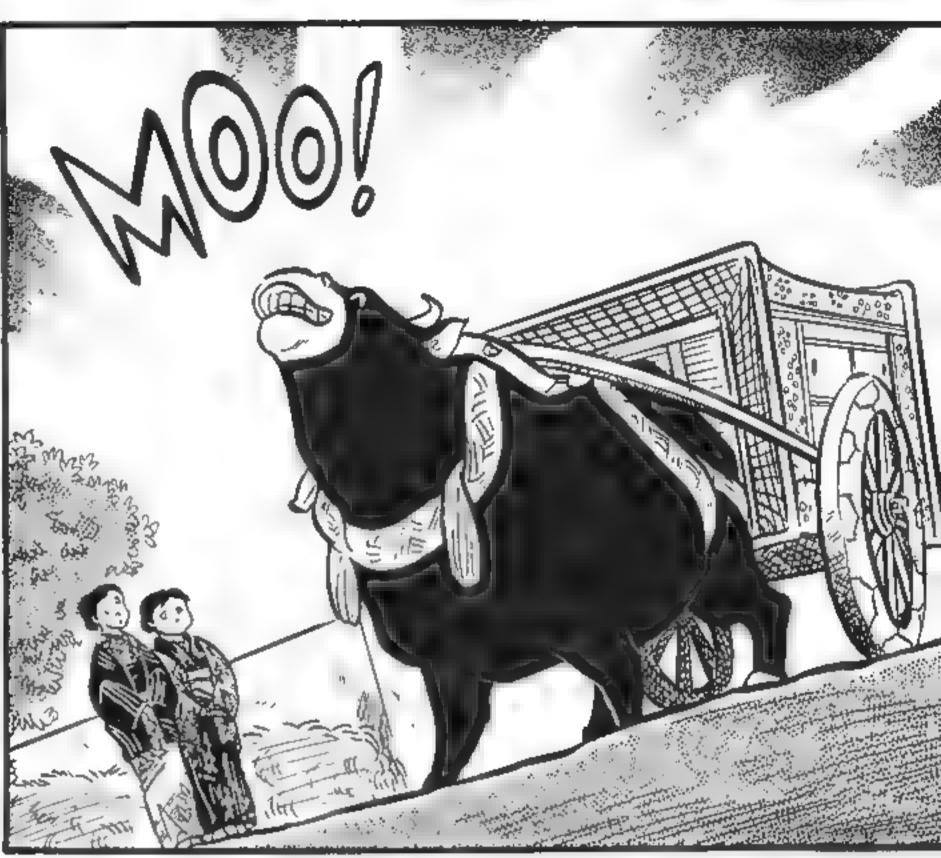












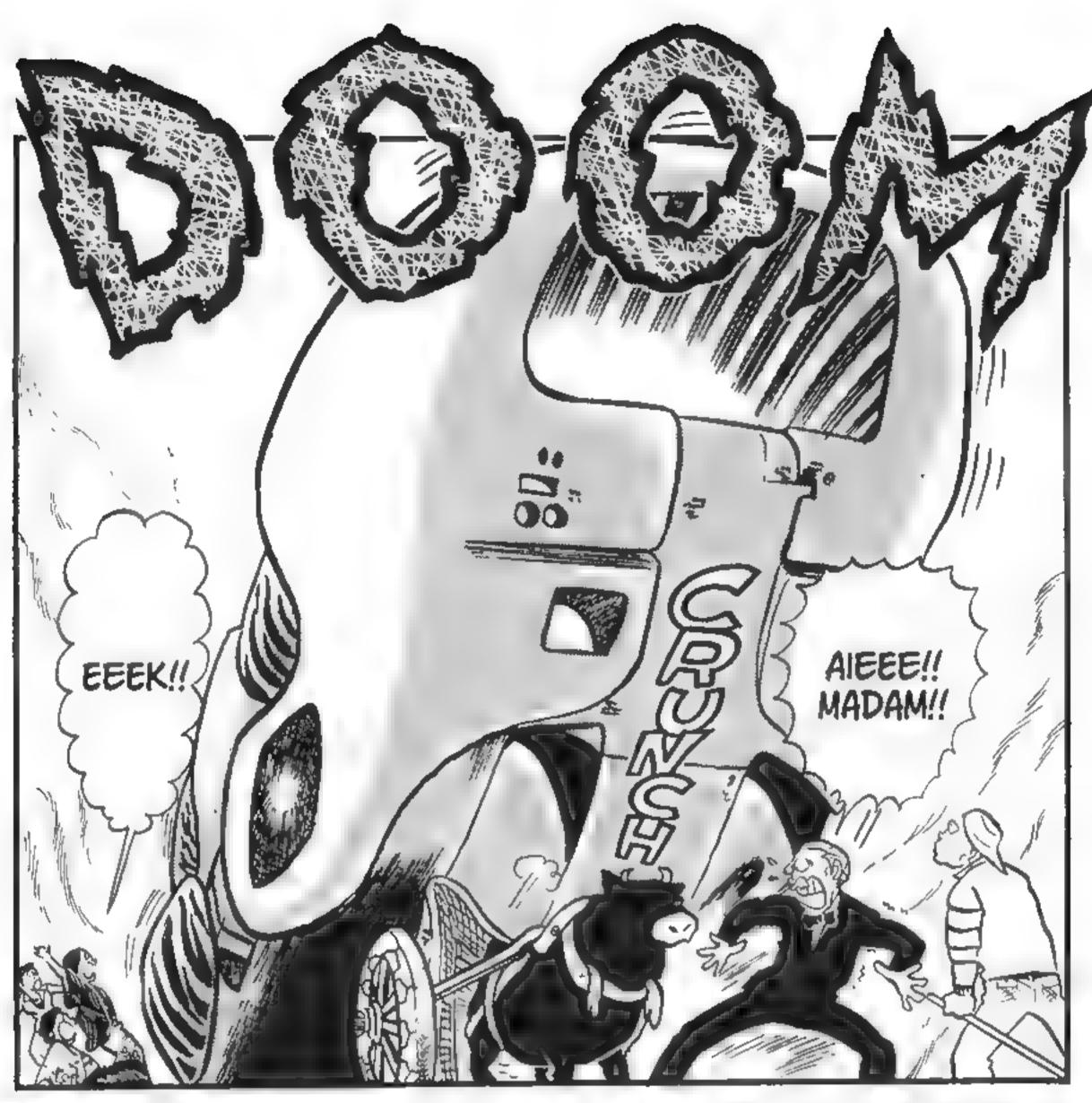




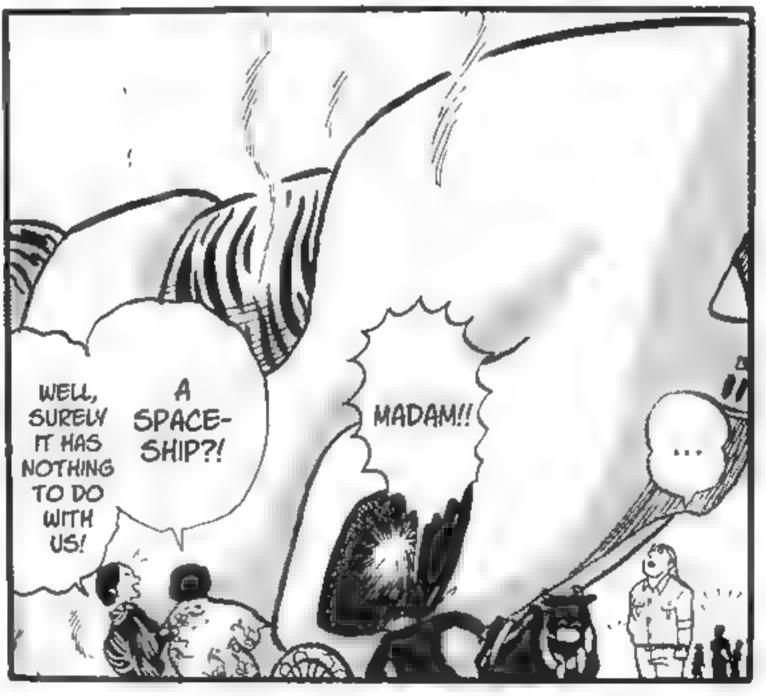


























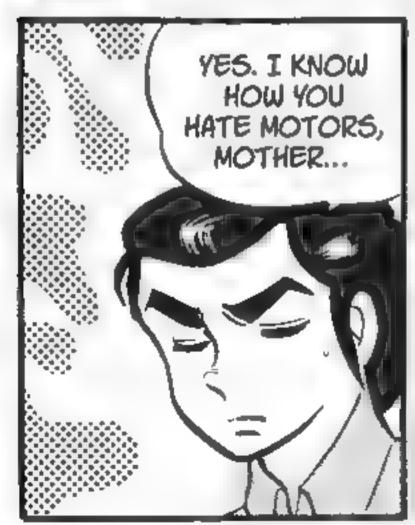






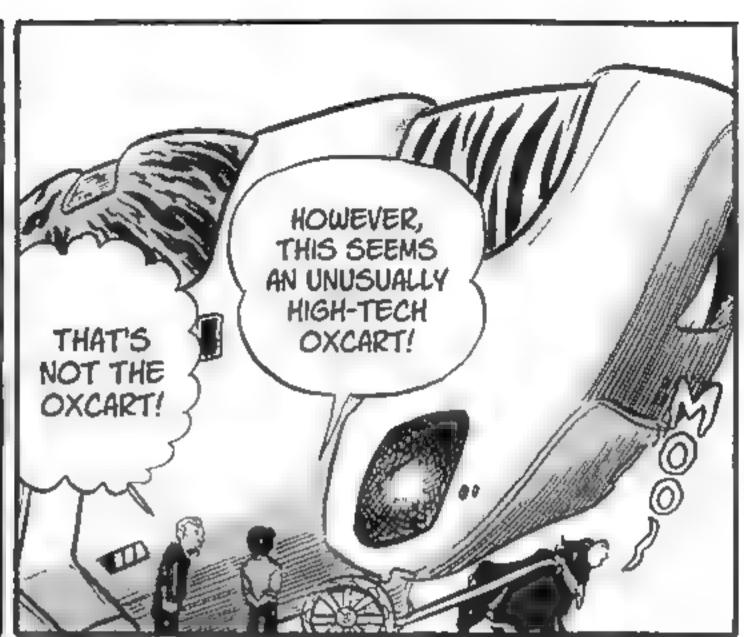


















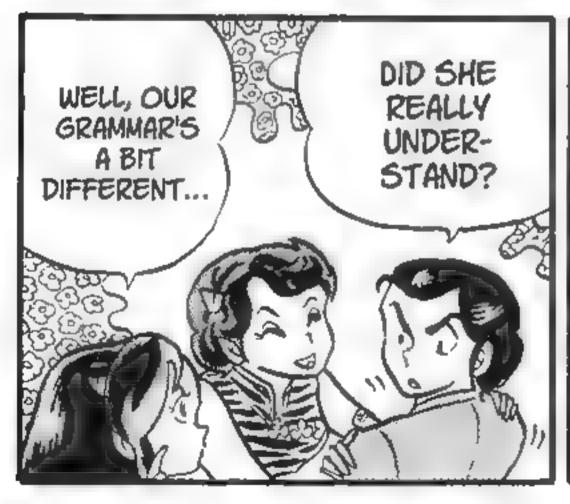
































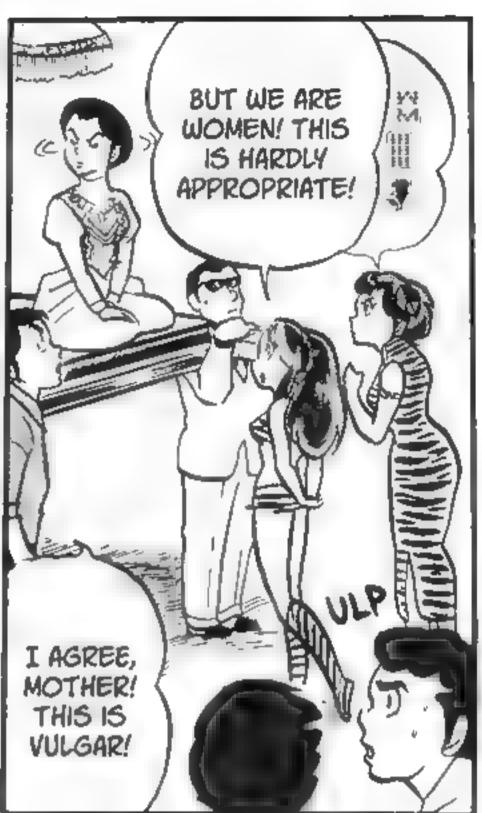




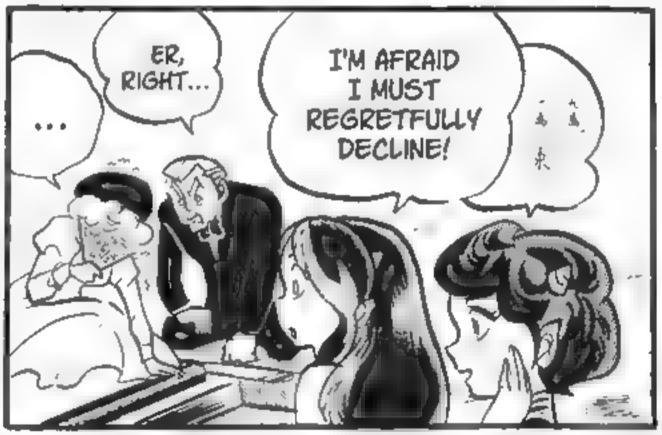


DOWN!



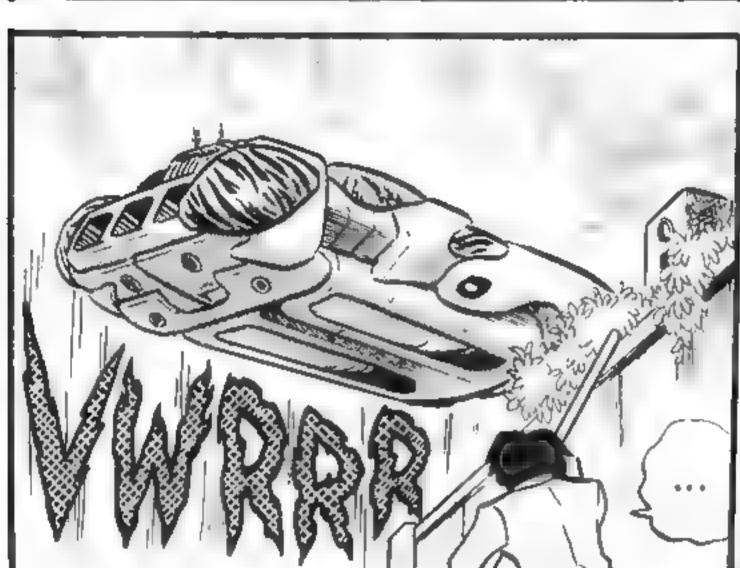




















## CHAPTER 168 KUNOICHI, RUNNING IN NARA

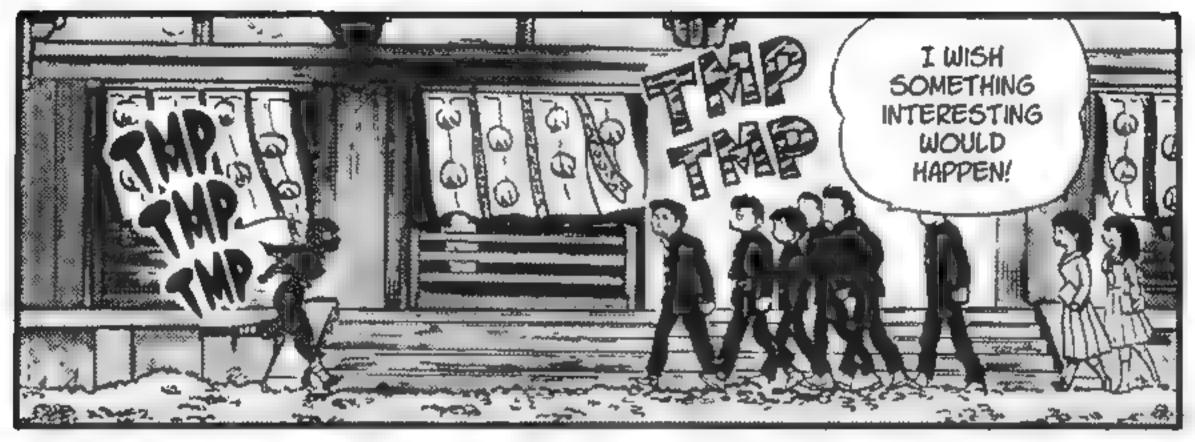






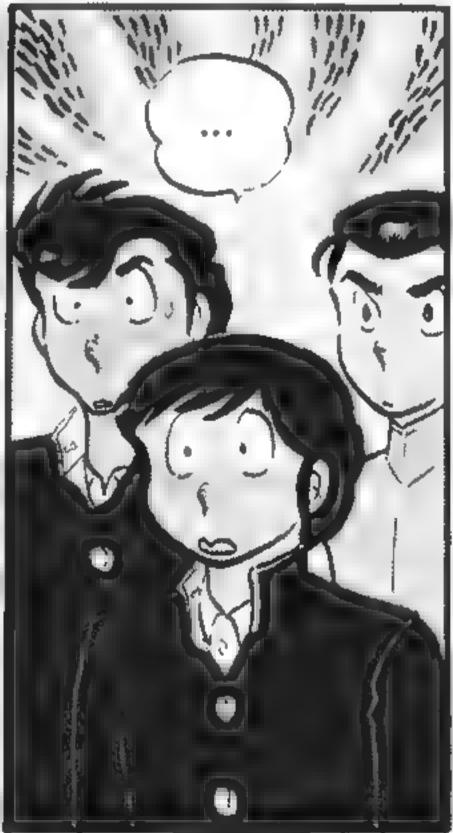


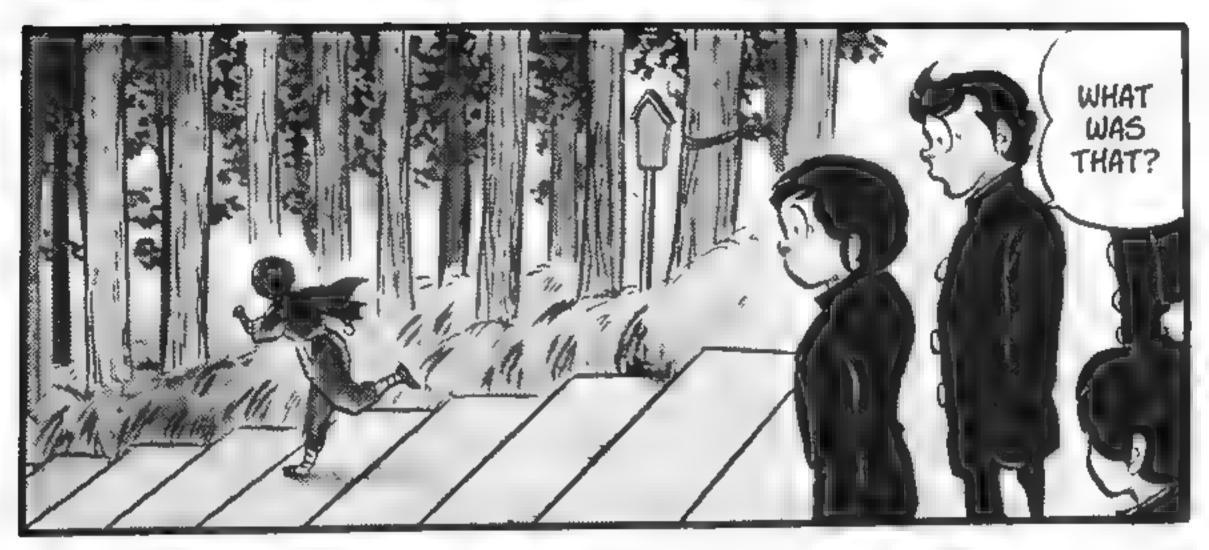


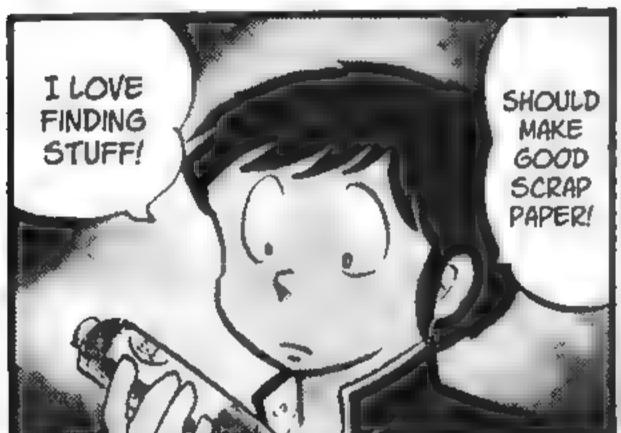








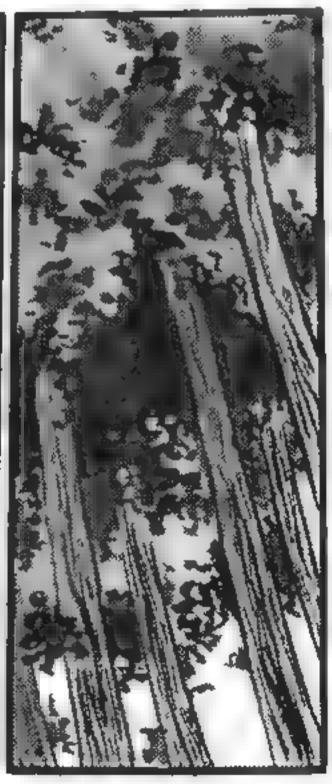










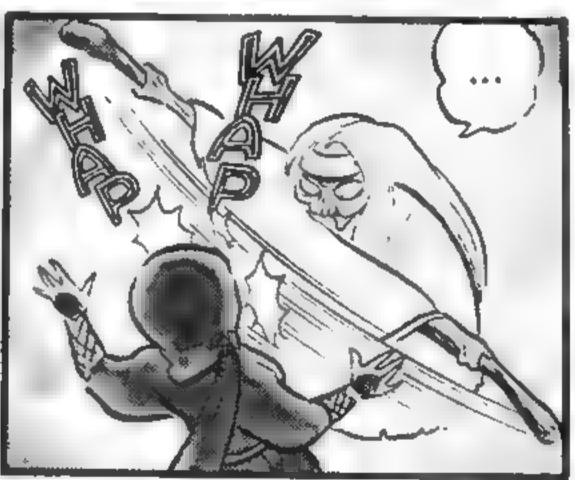


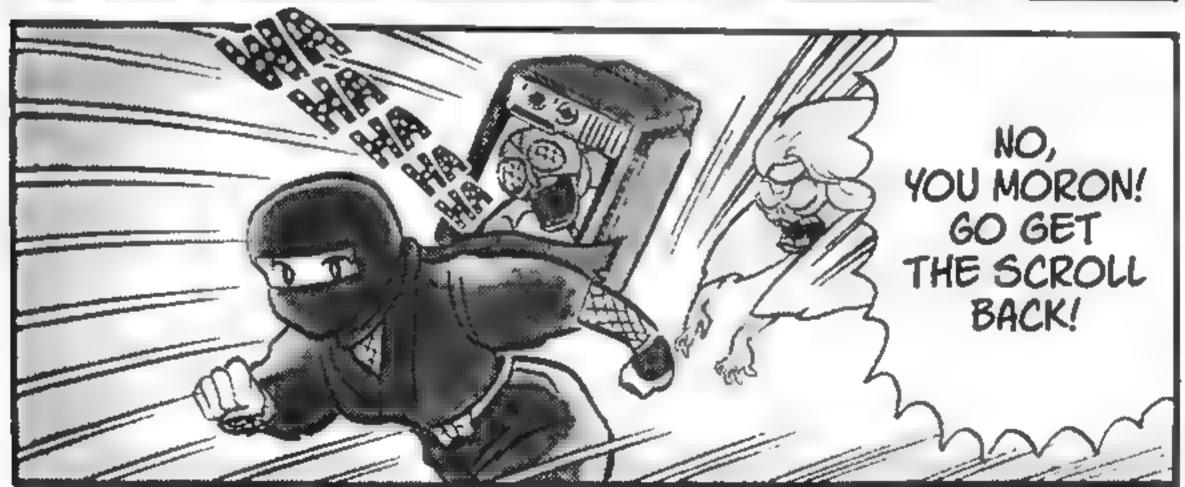


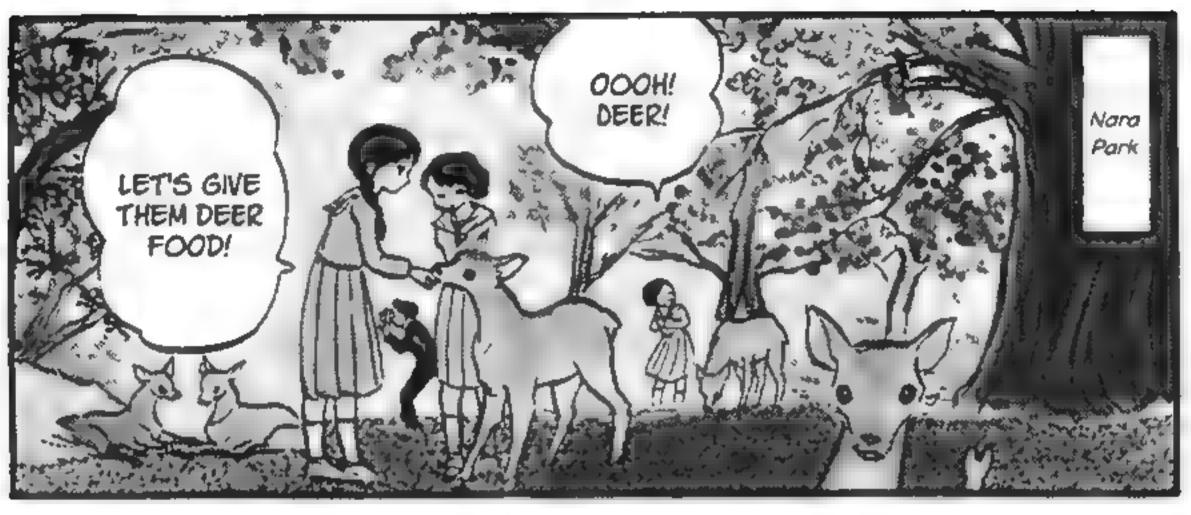




















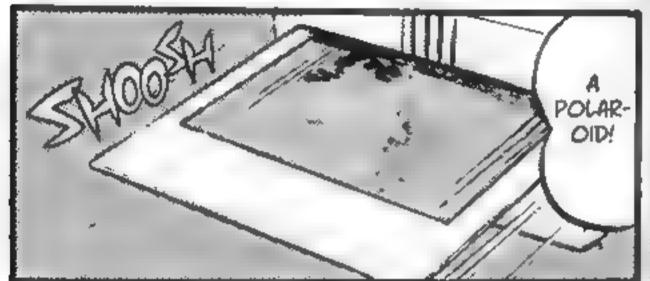










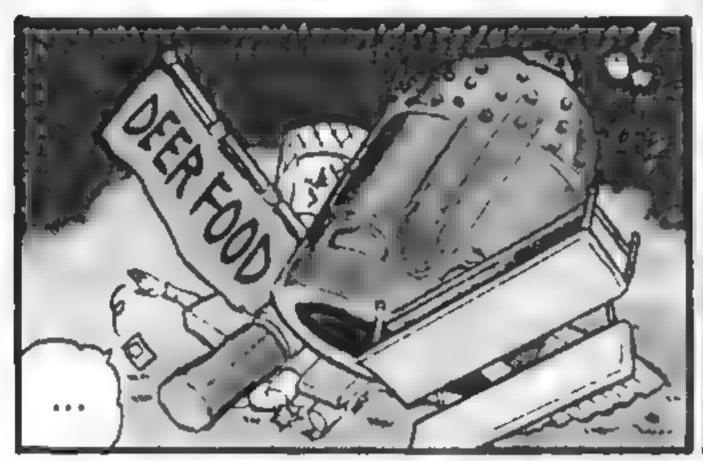












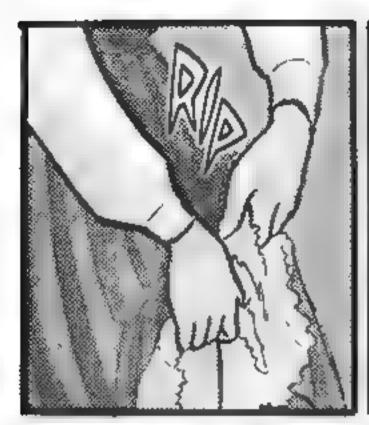
















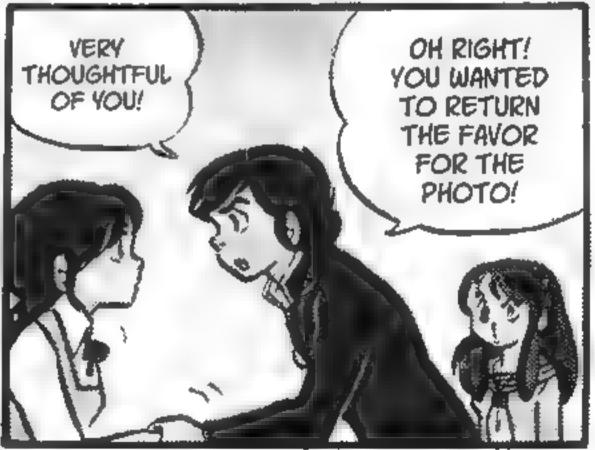


























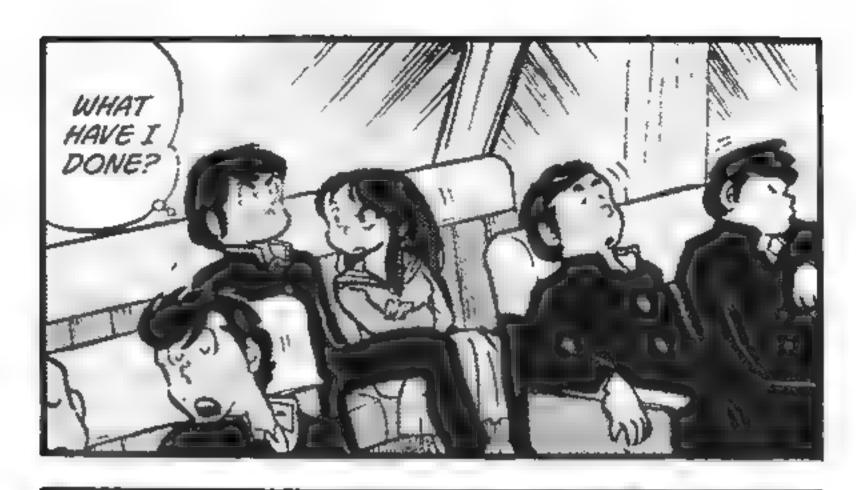








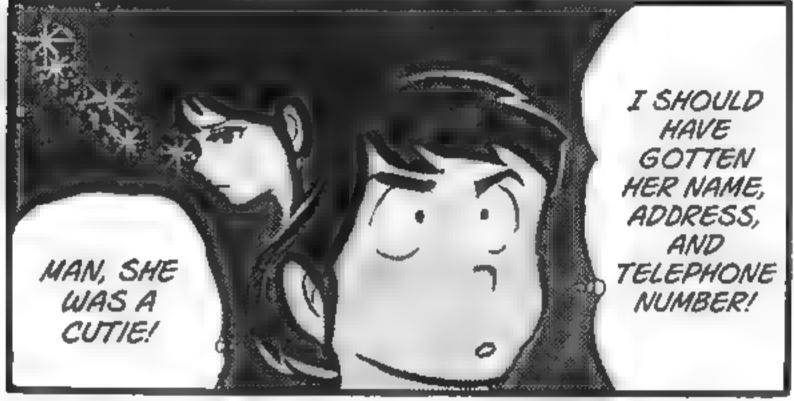


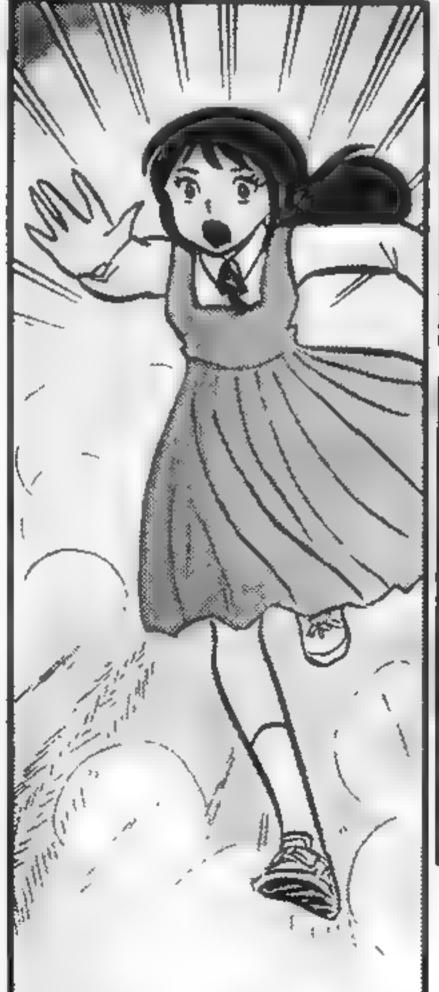


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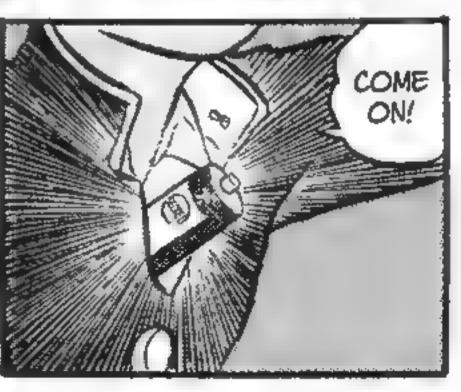
















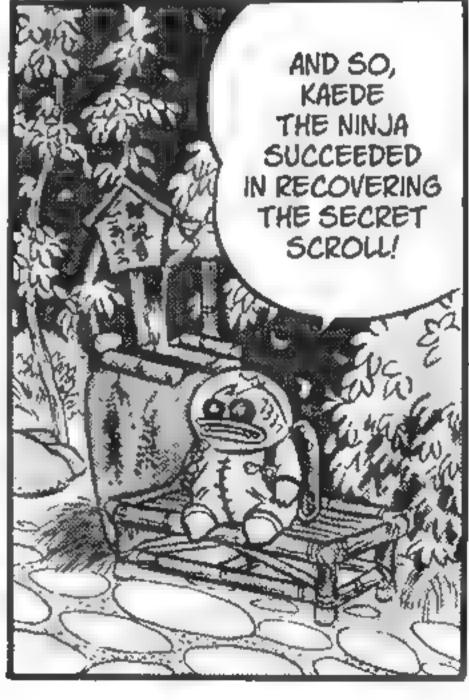
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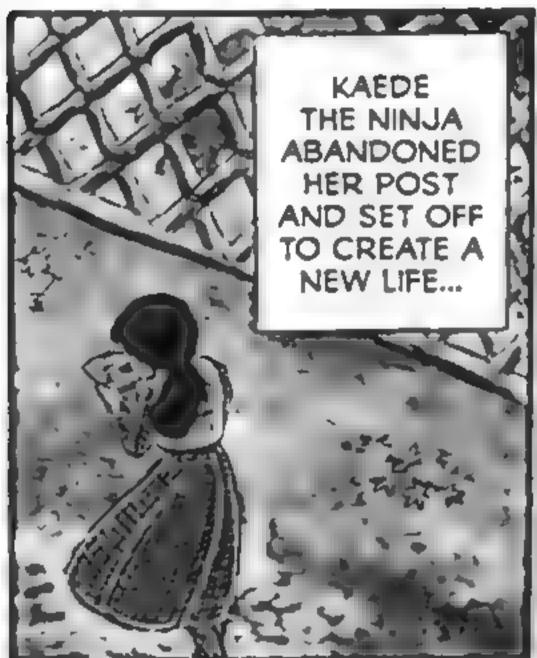




## CHAPTER 17: KUNOICHI, LURKING IN KYOTO



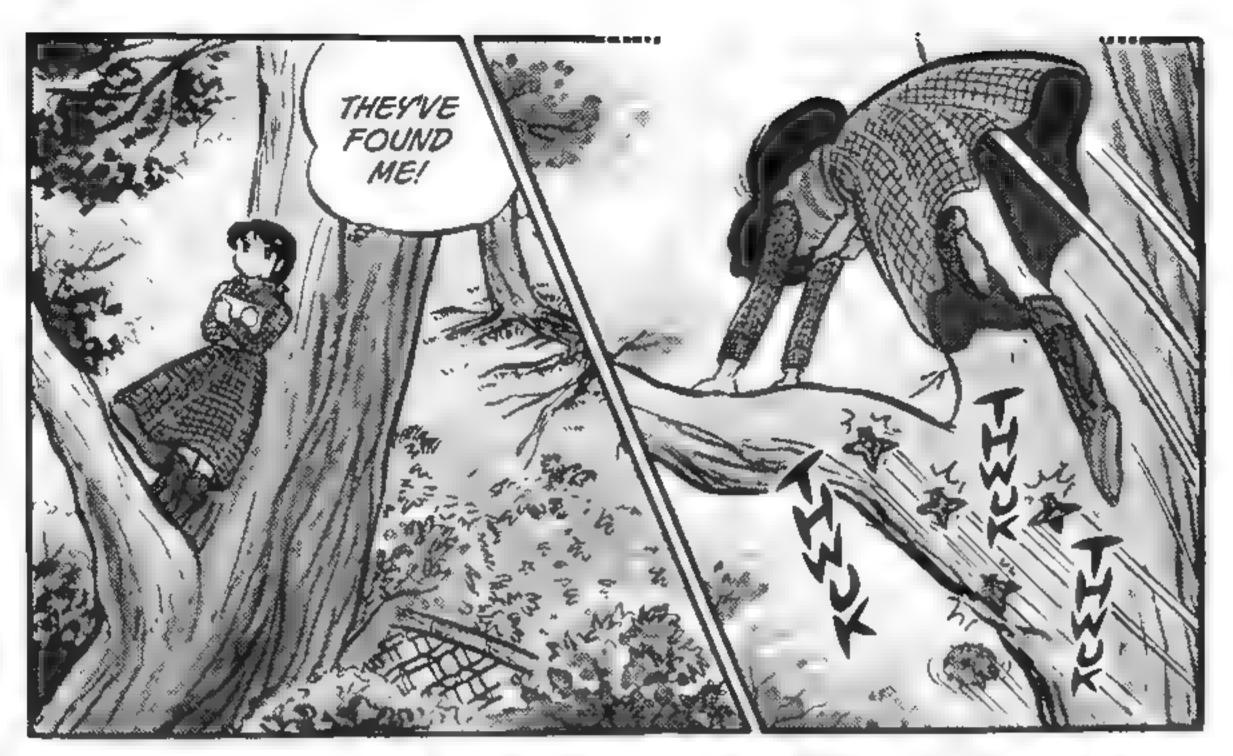






















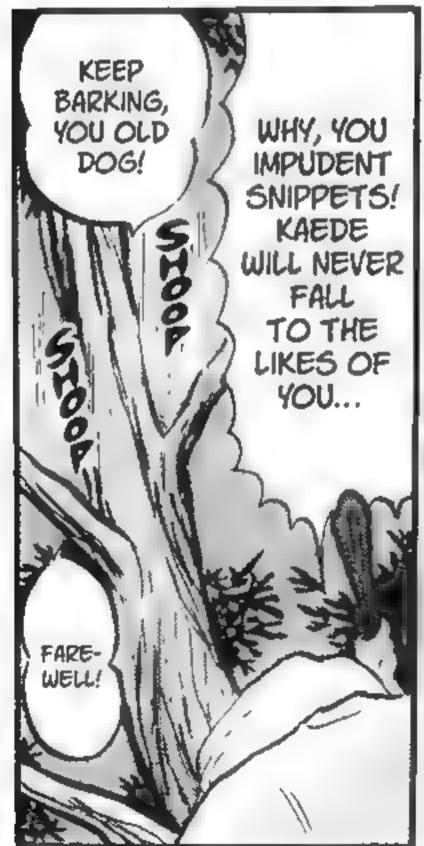




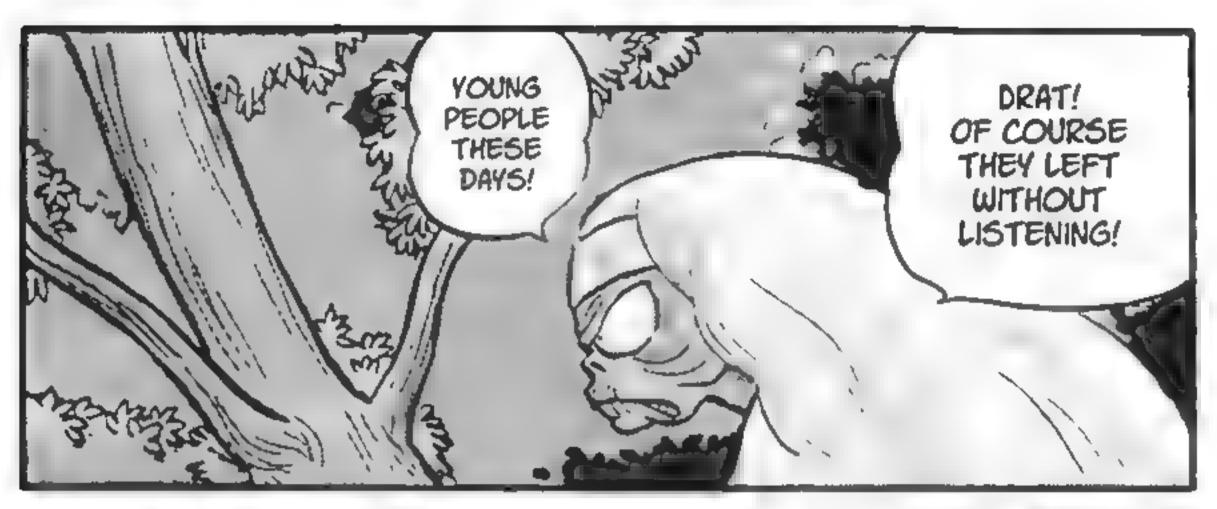


























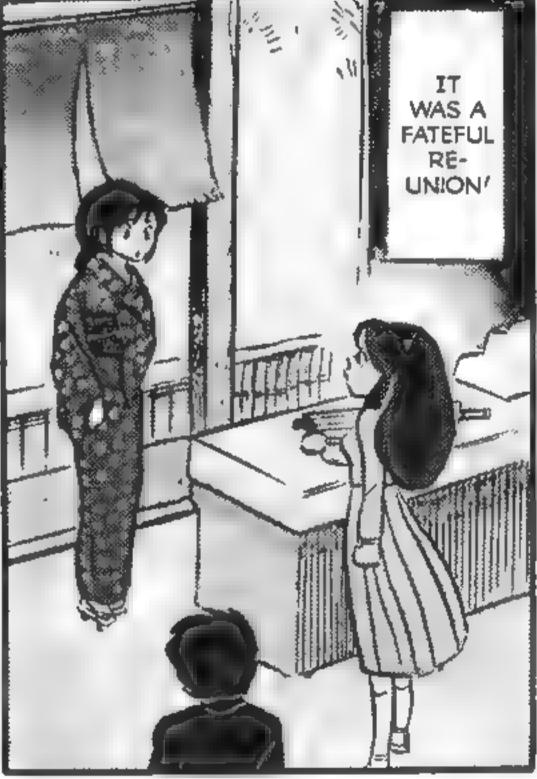


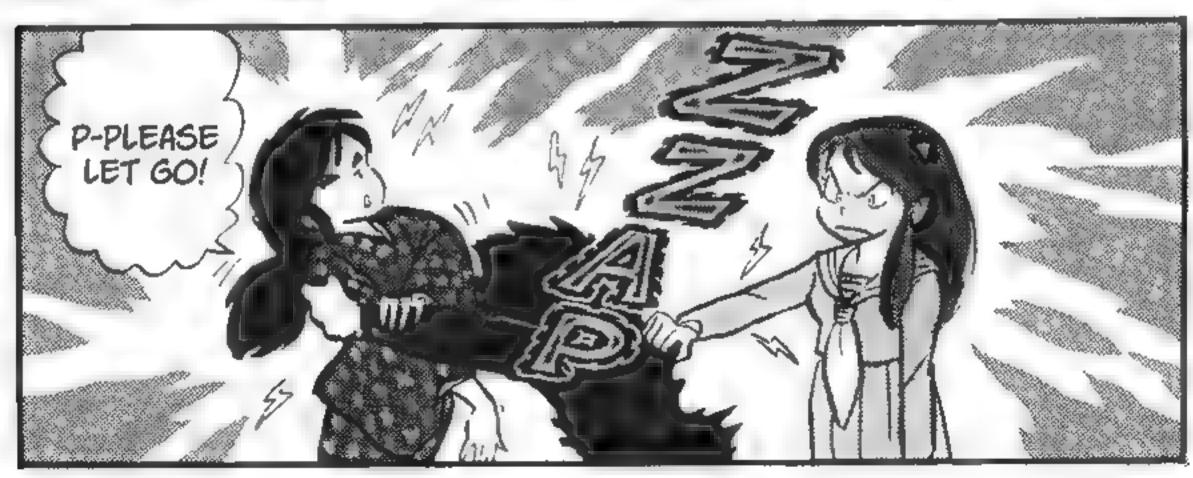














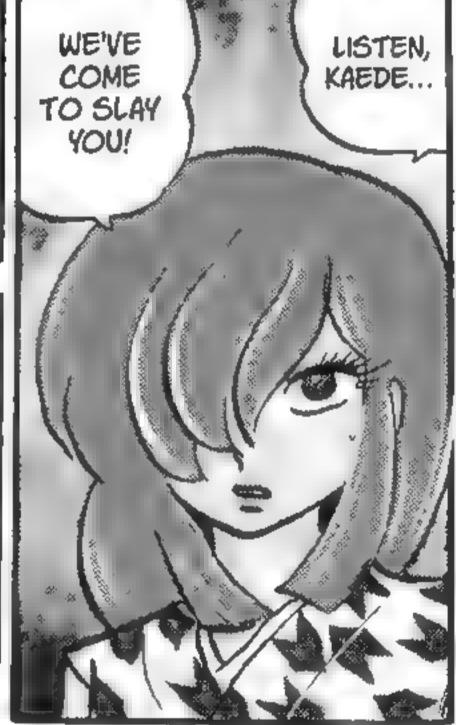






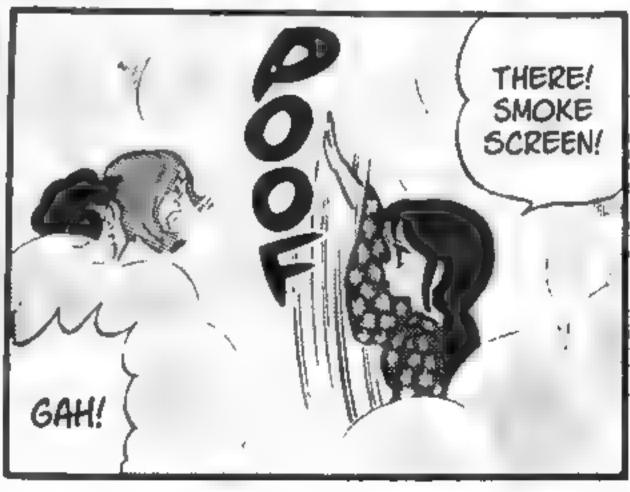












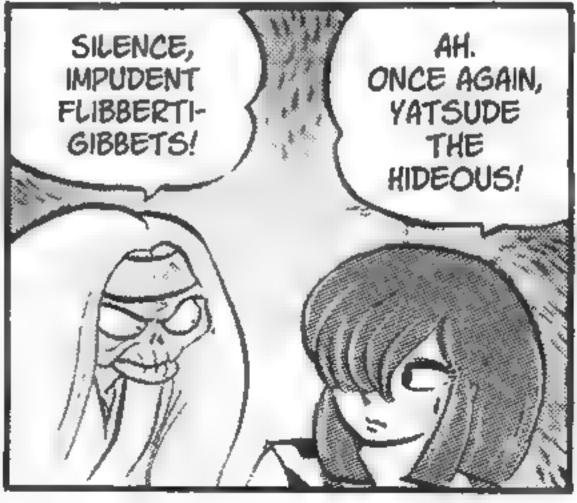












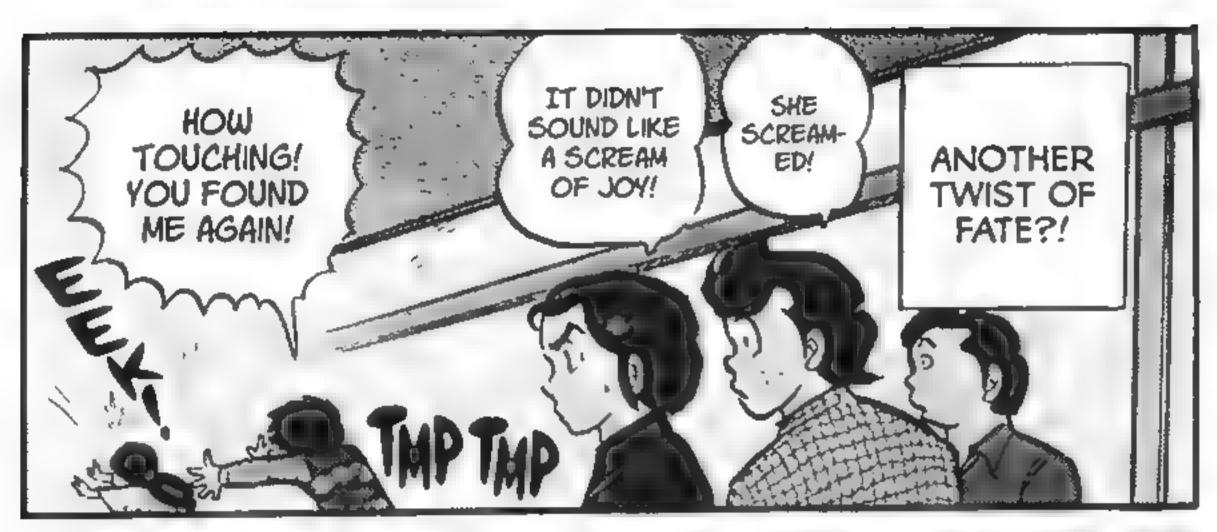








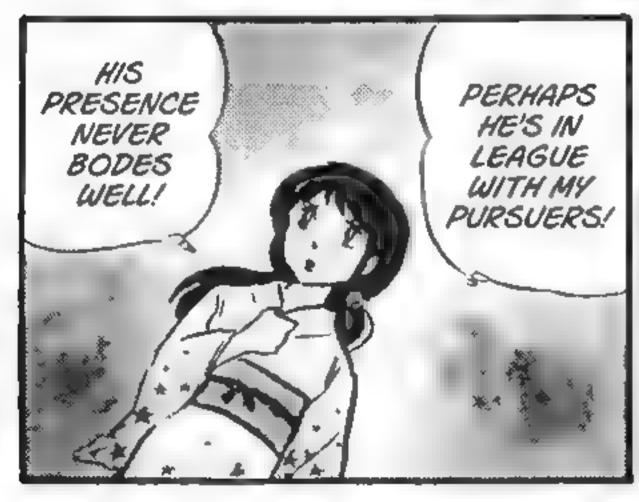




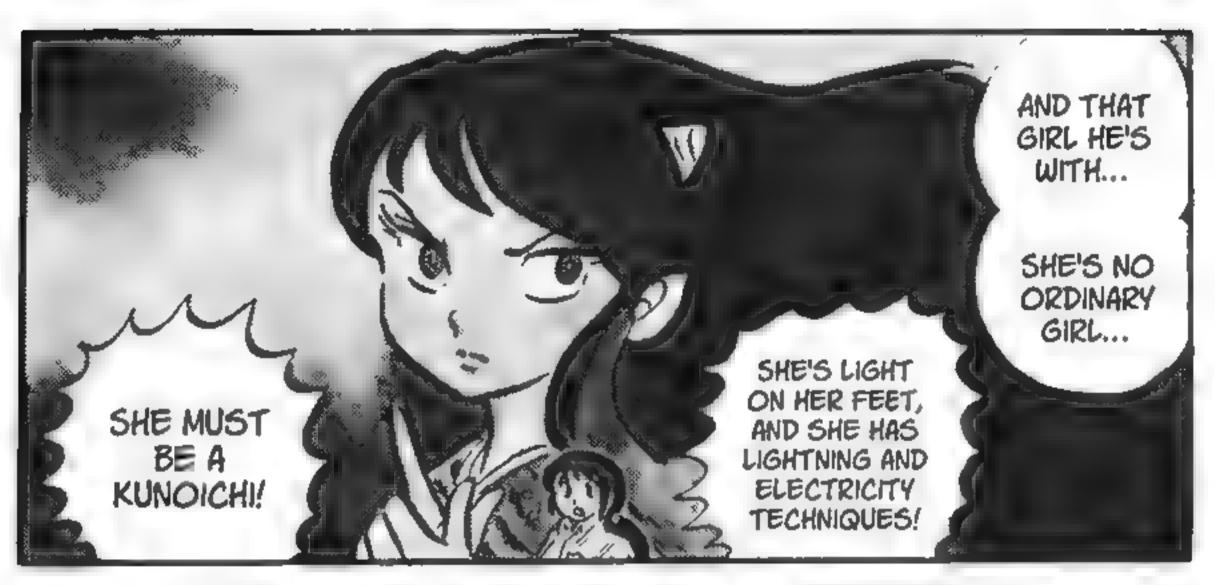




















































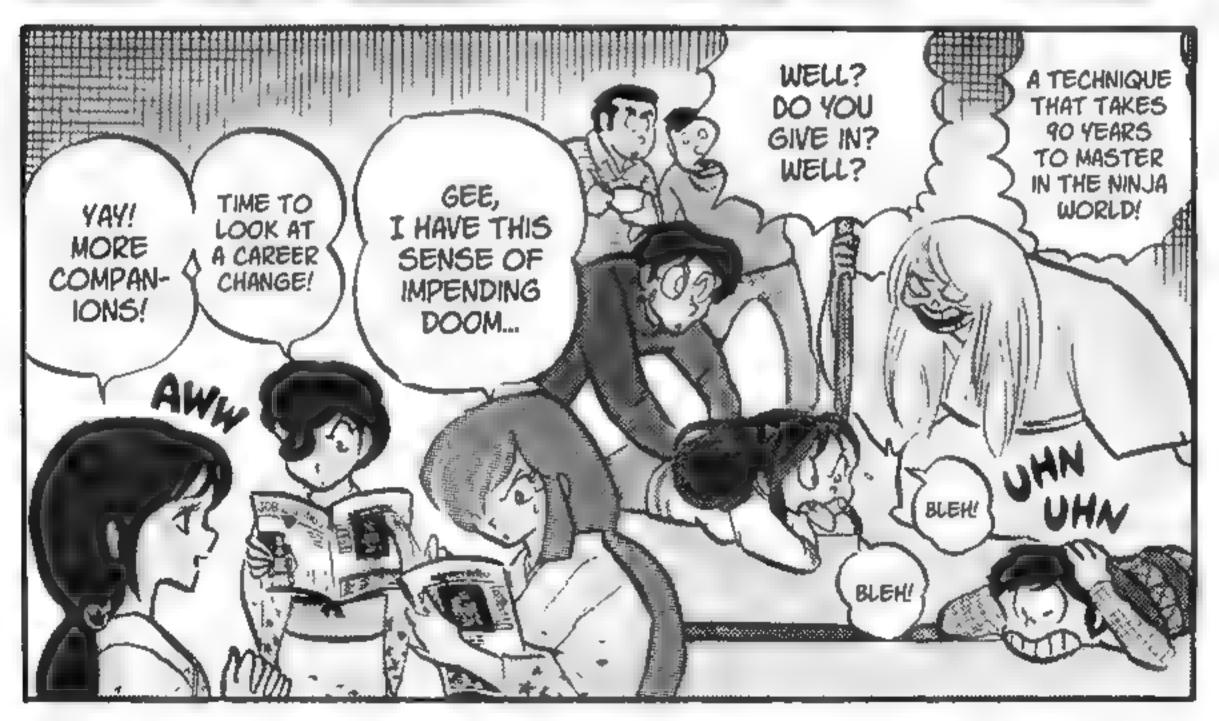












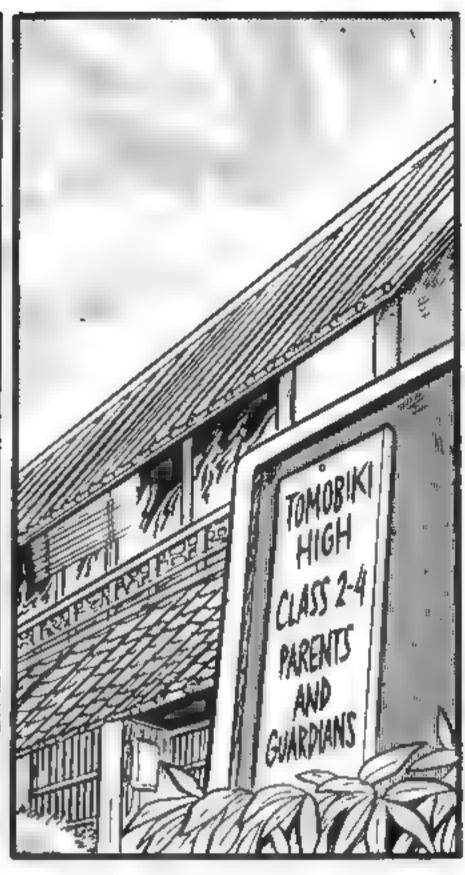


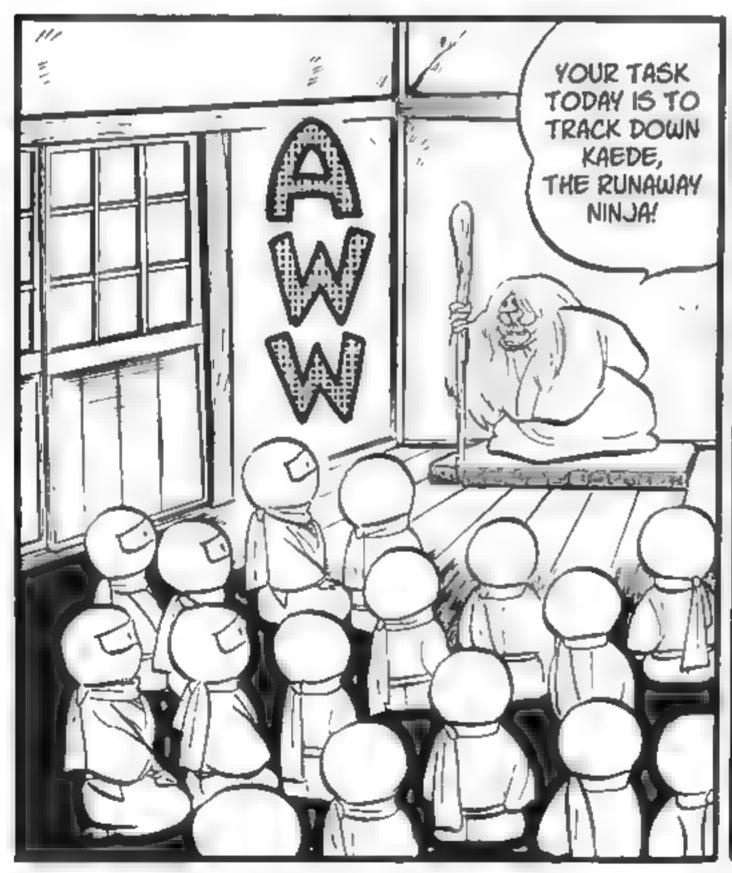
## CHAPTER 18: KUNOICHI FOREVER



KAEDE







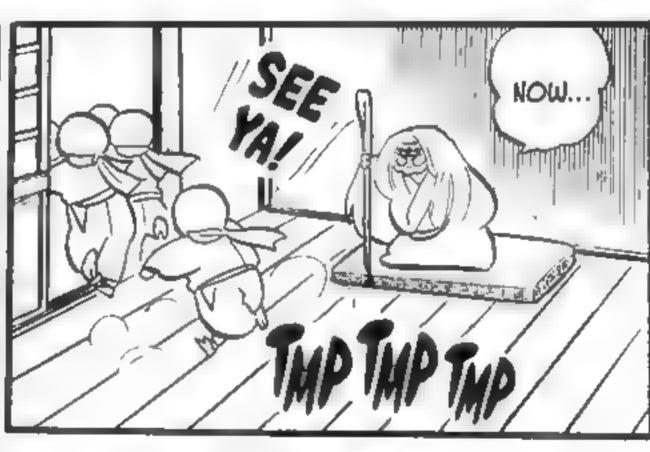








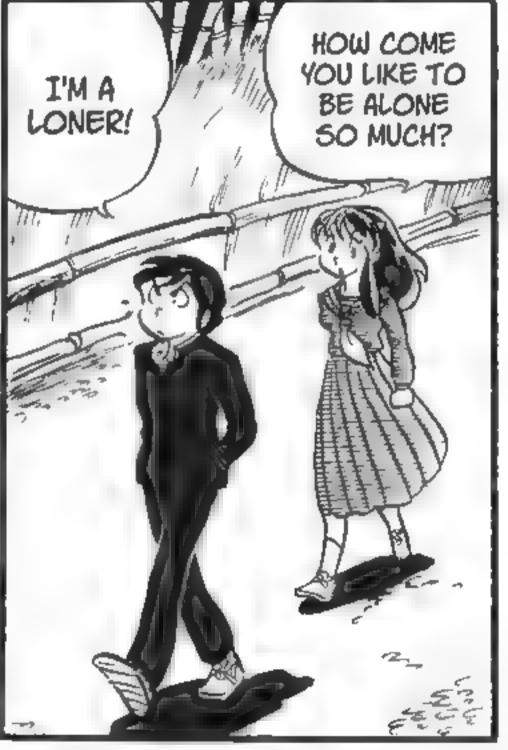
















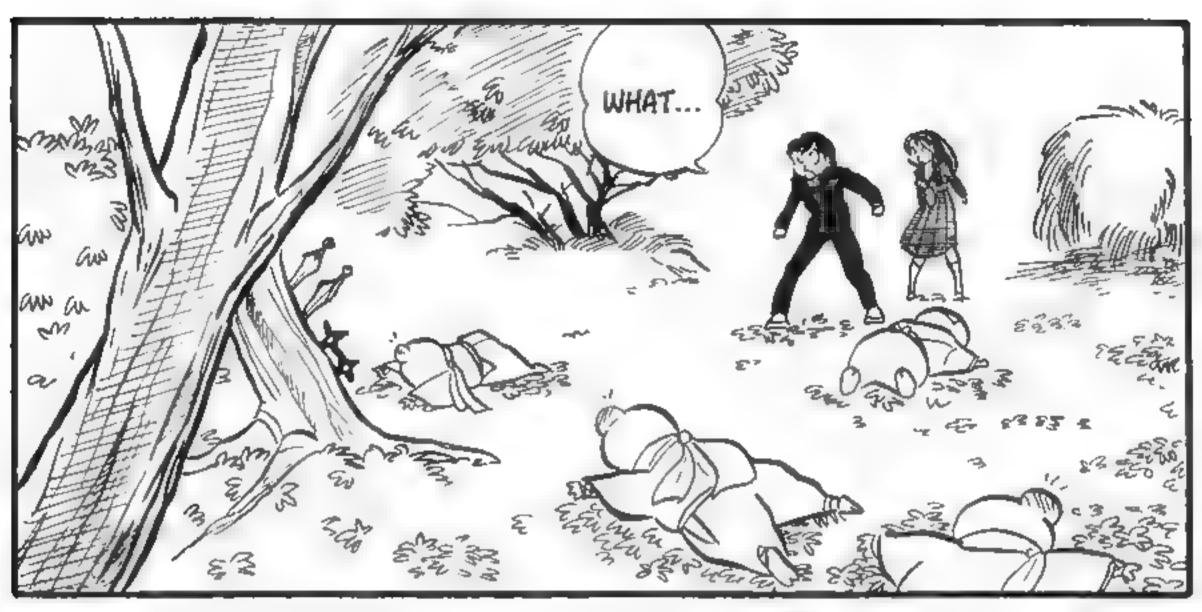


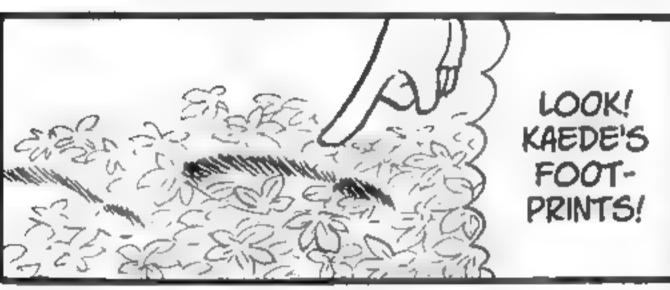








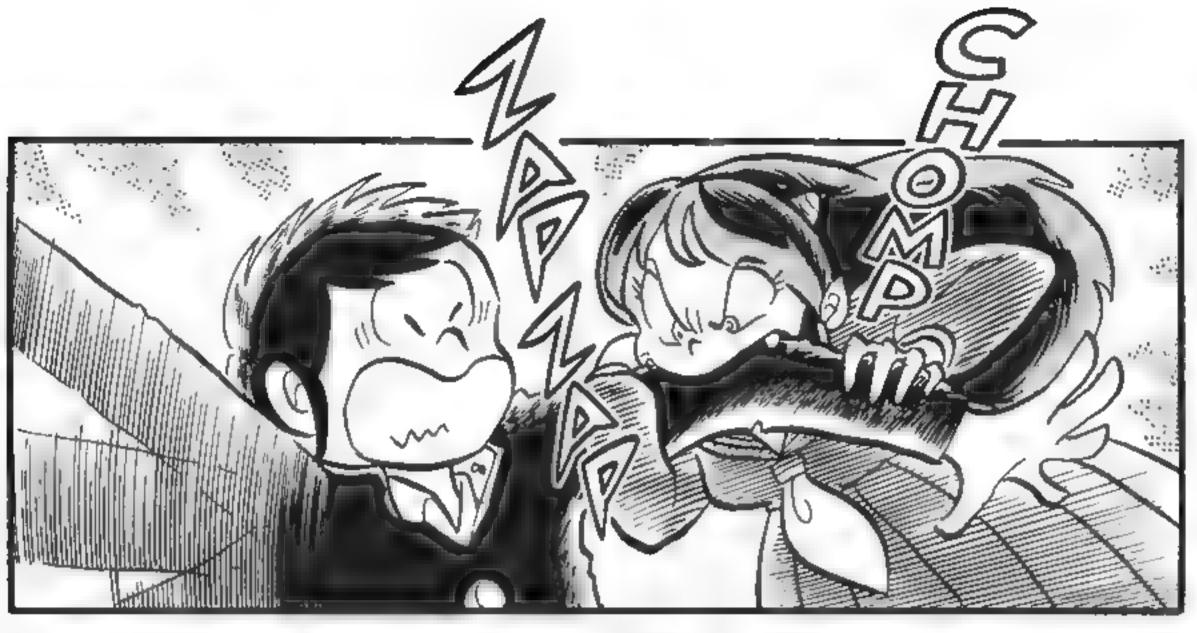




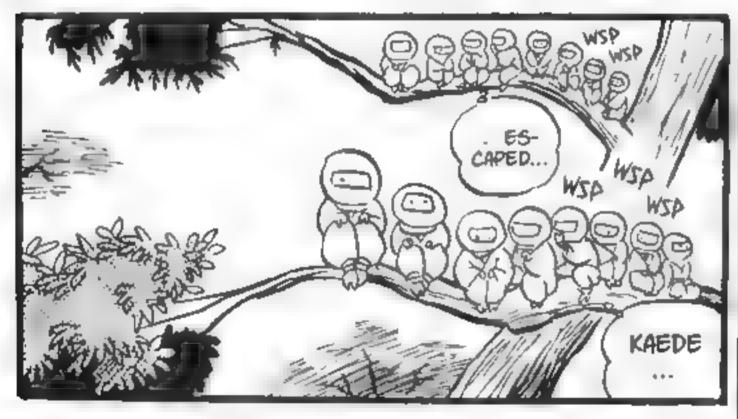






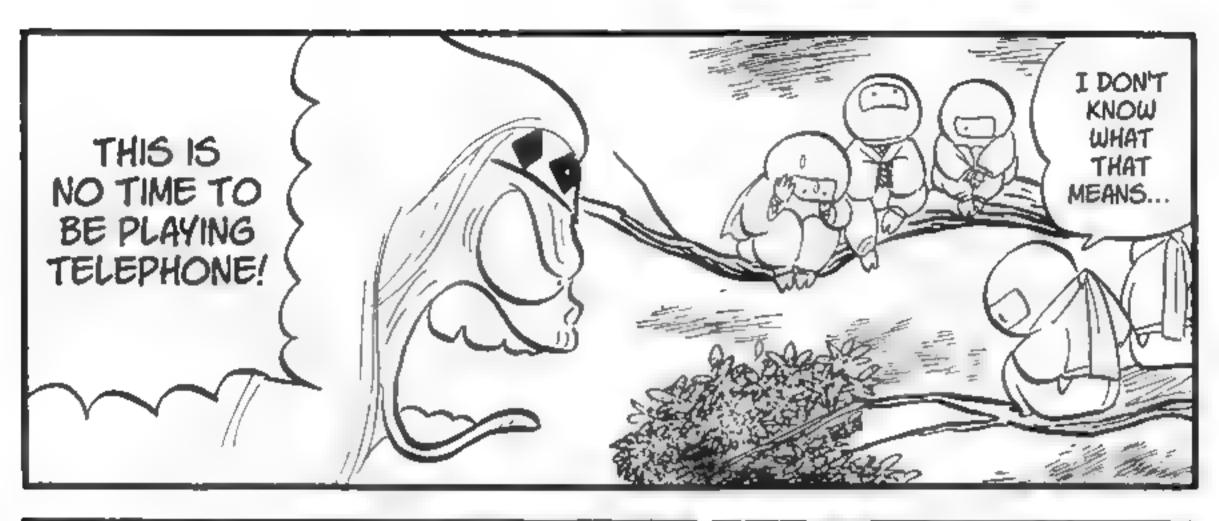


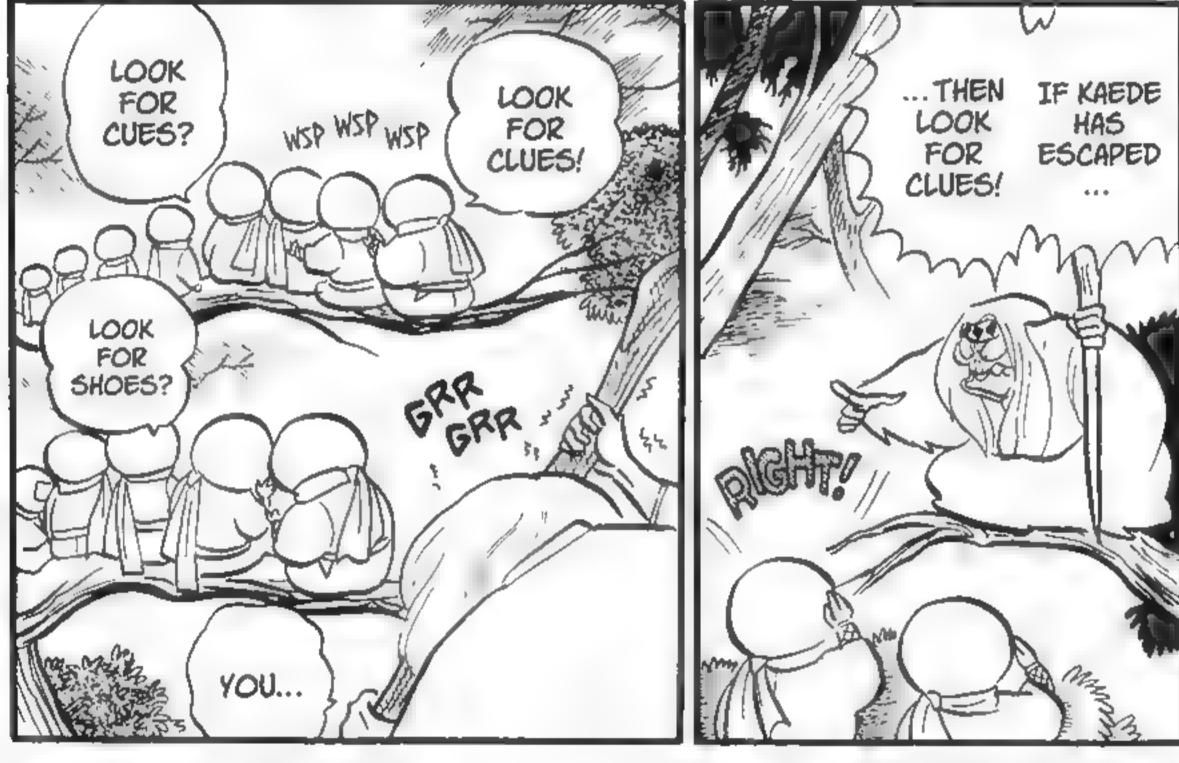














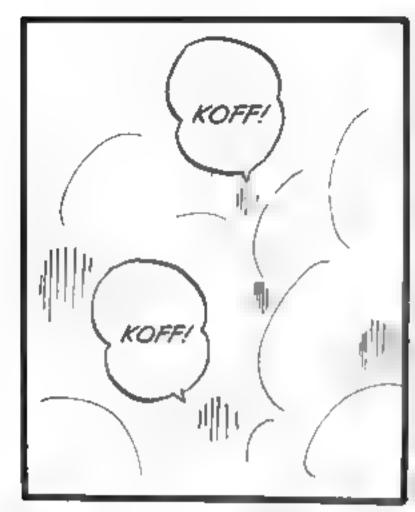






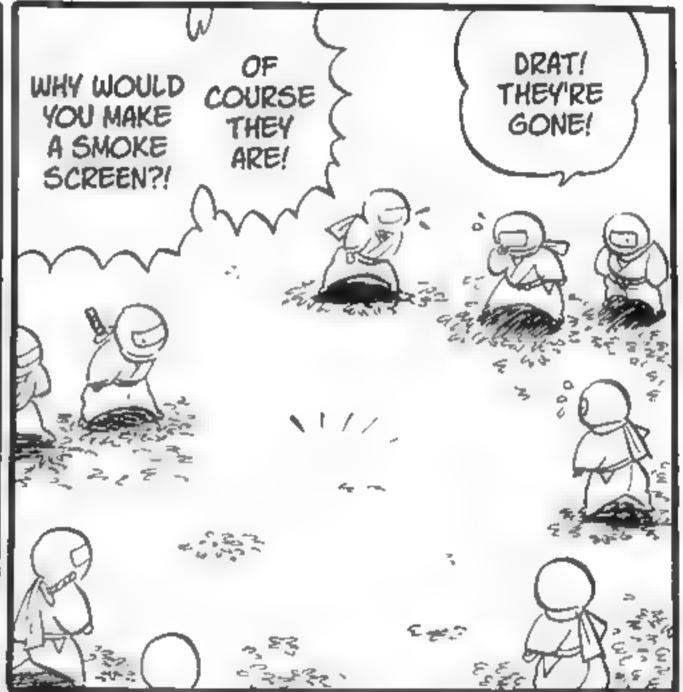


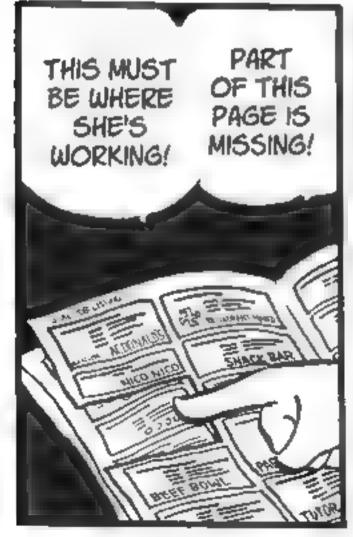






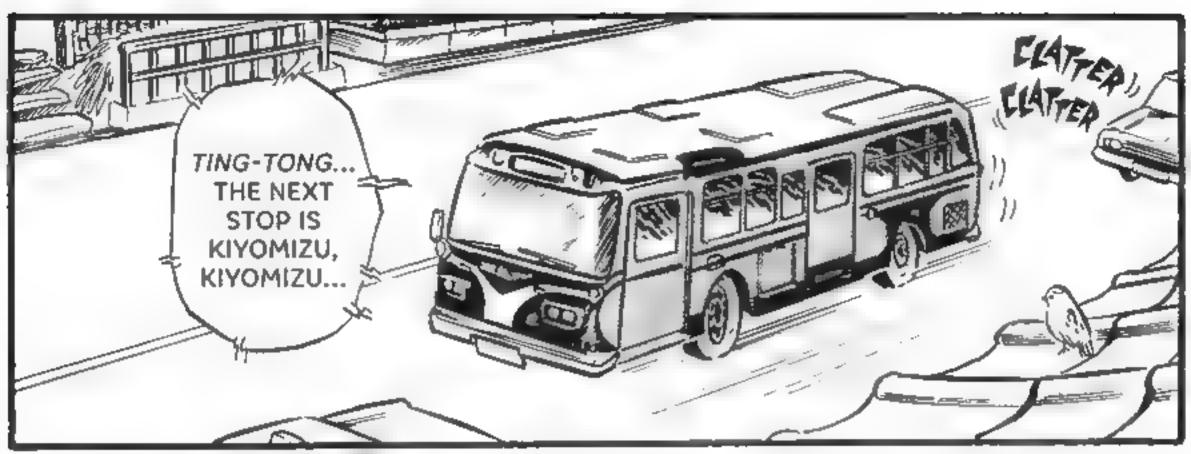


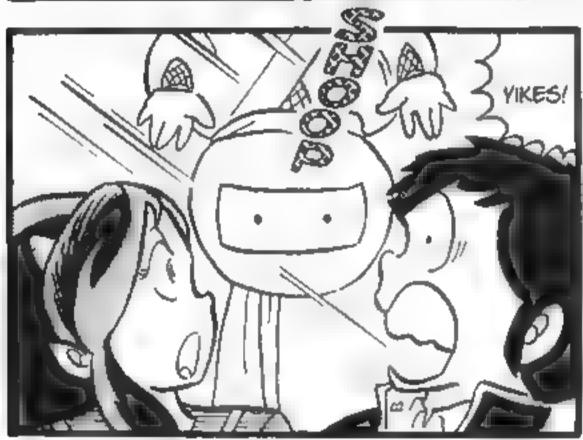








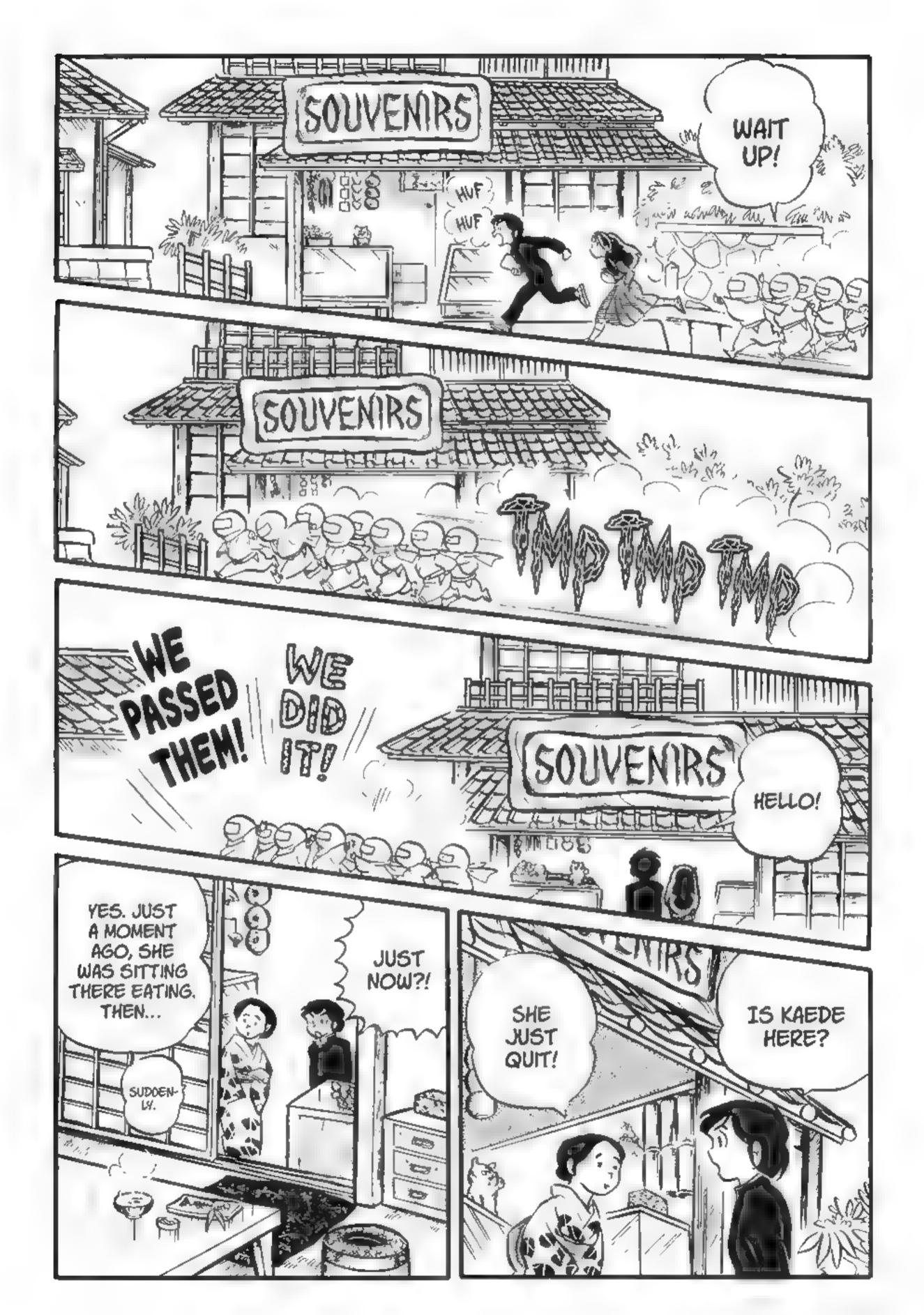




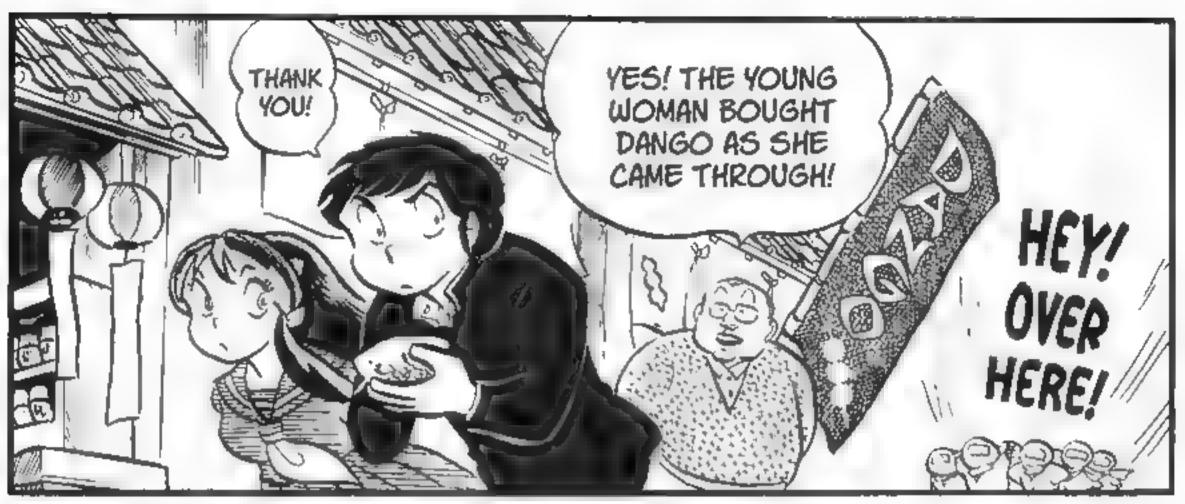








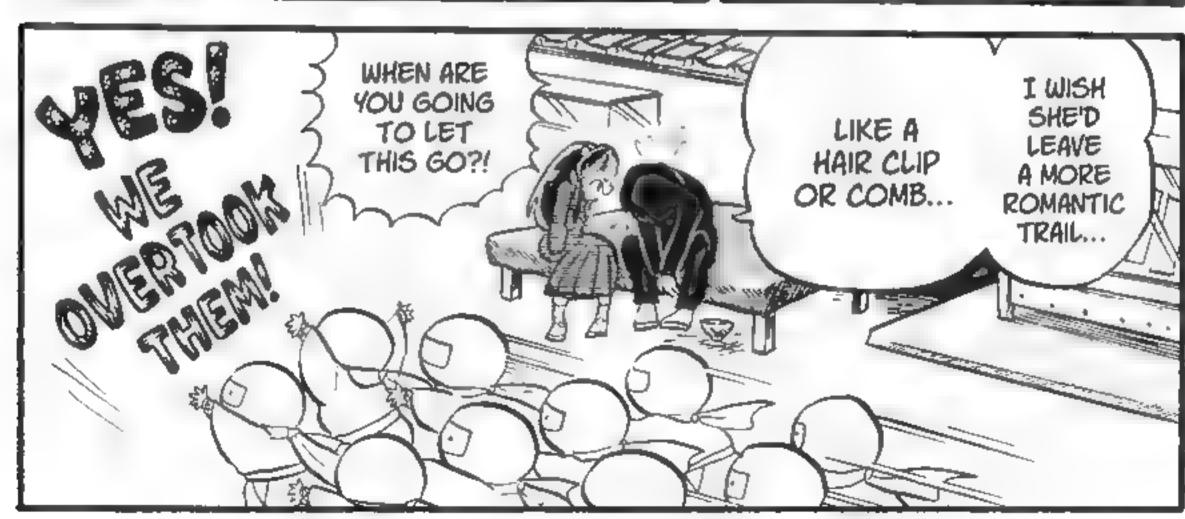


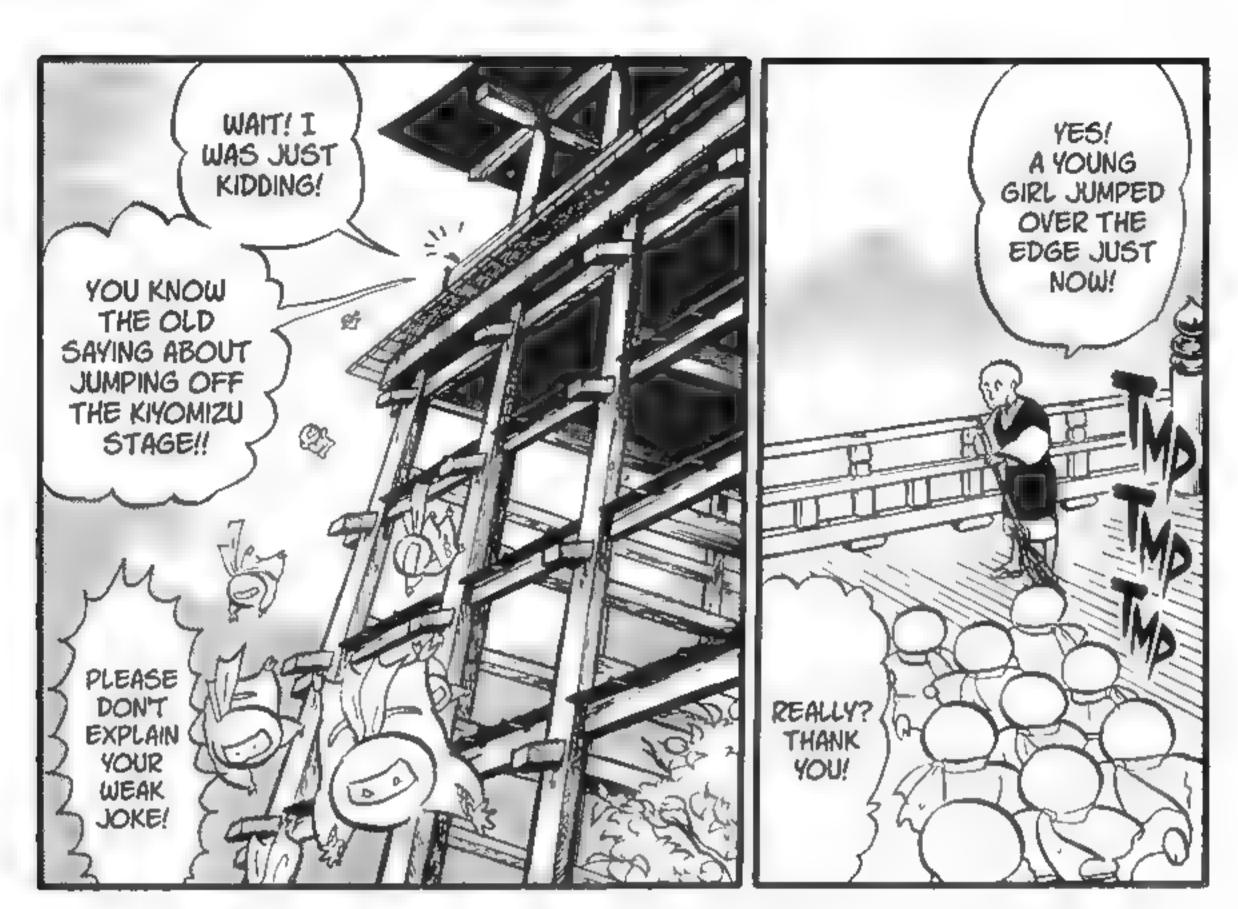




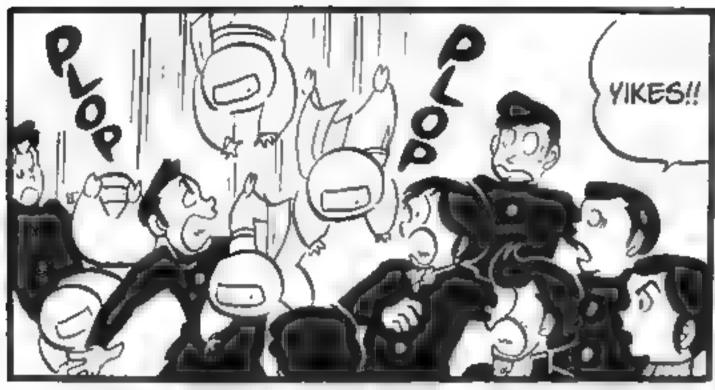






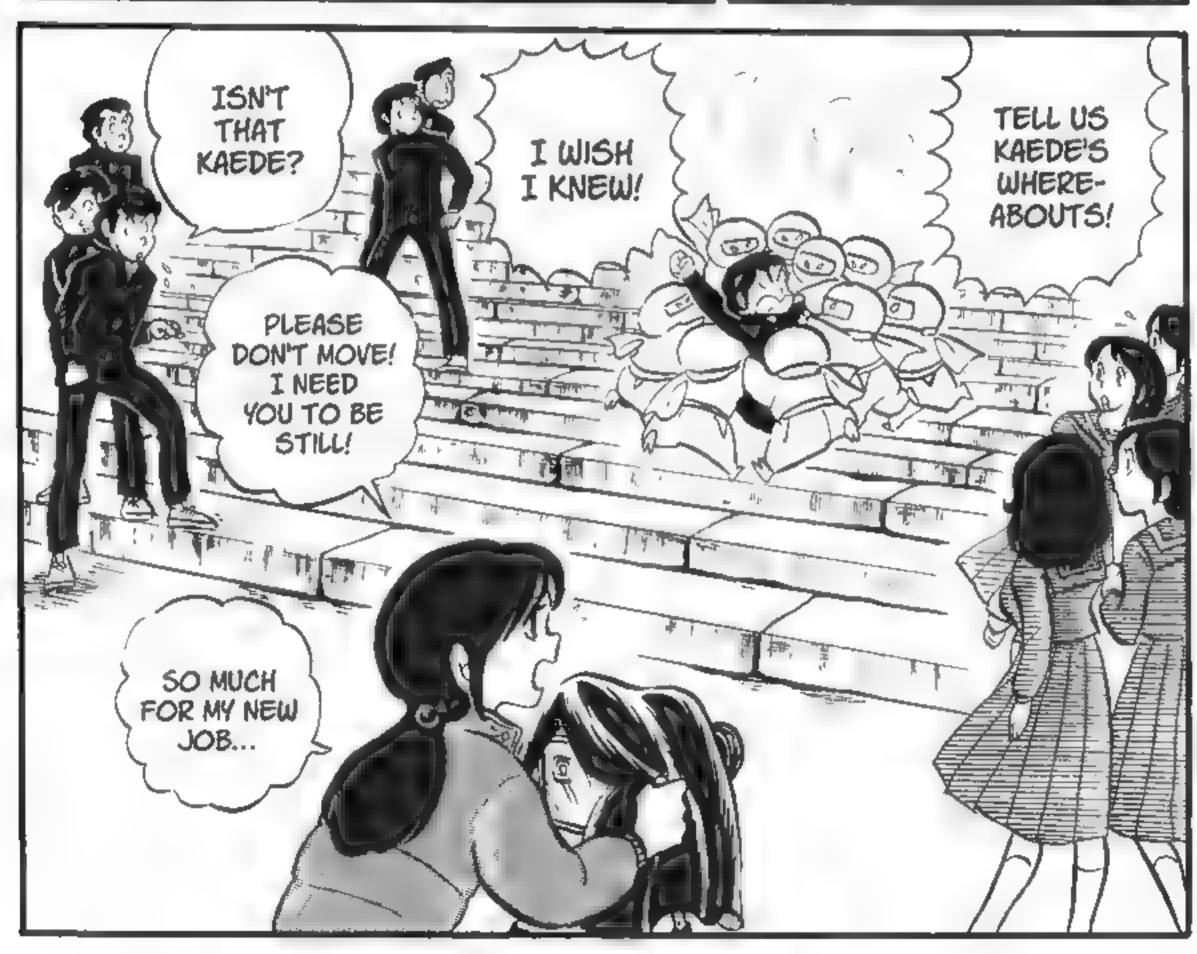






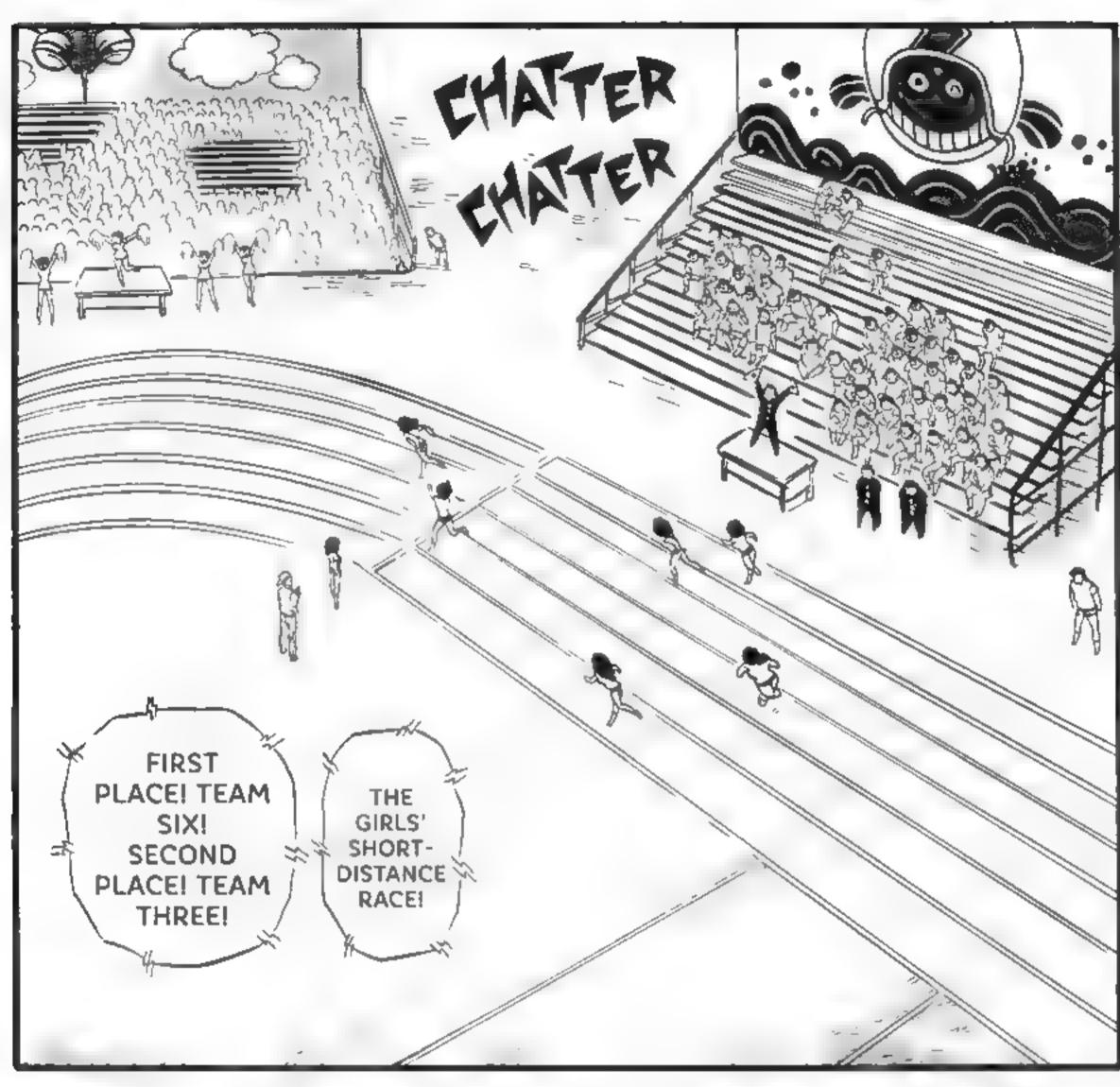






## CHAPTER 19: SPORTS FESTIVAL CLOSE CALL

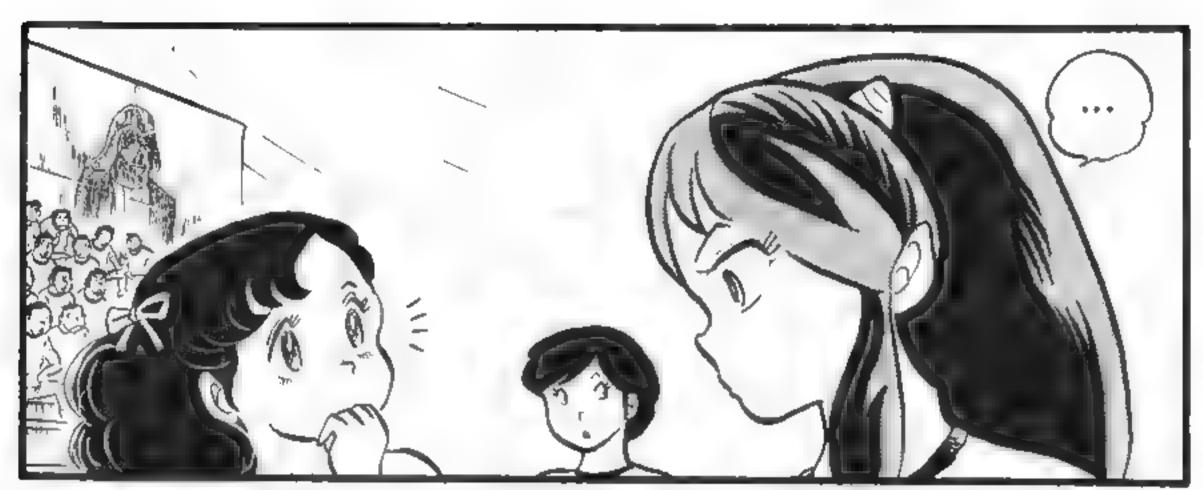




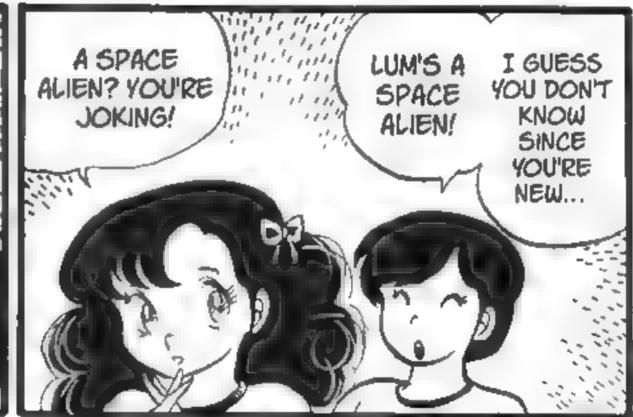




























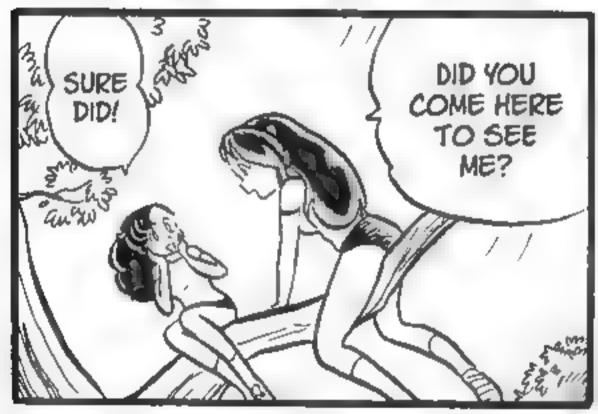




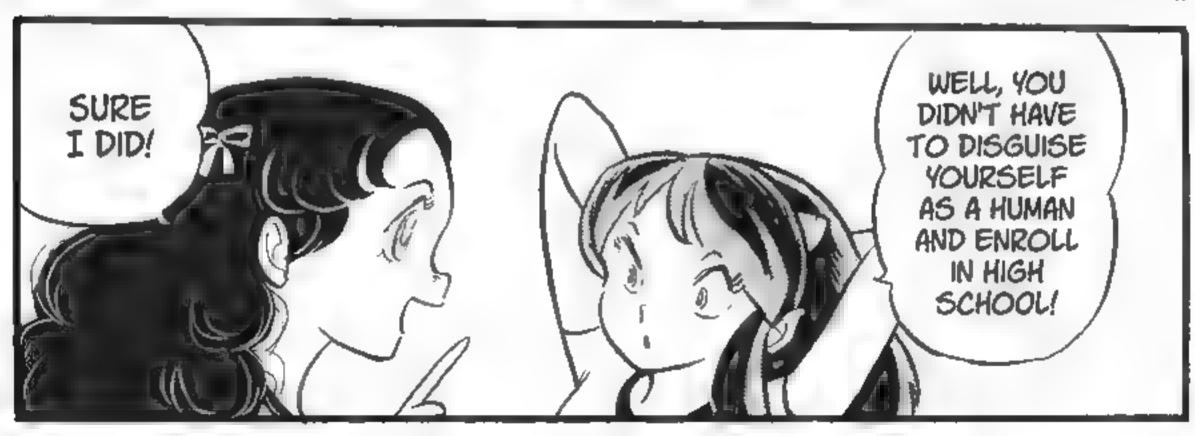


















































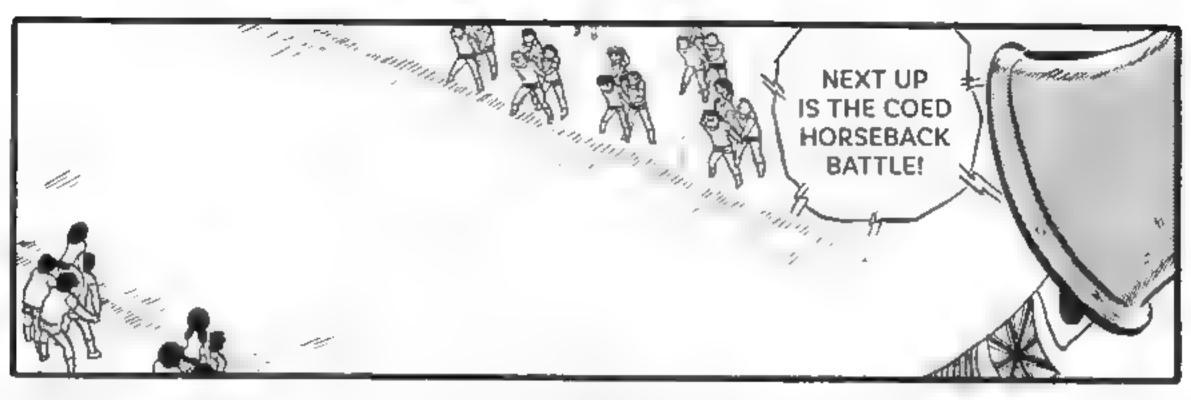














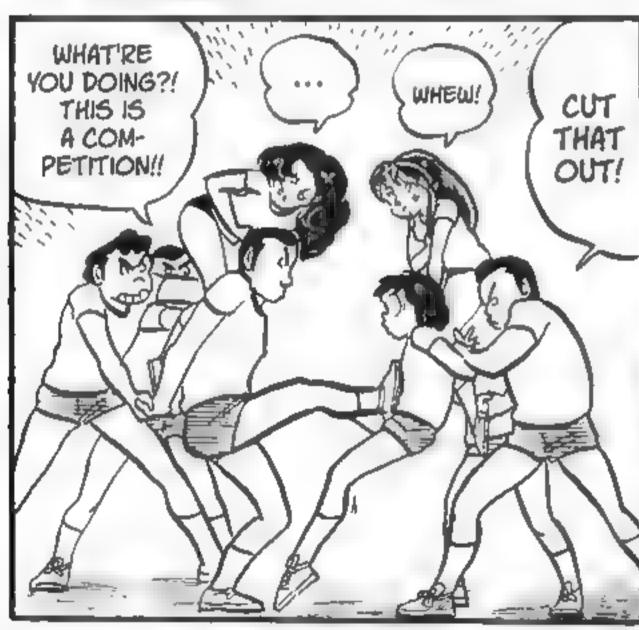


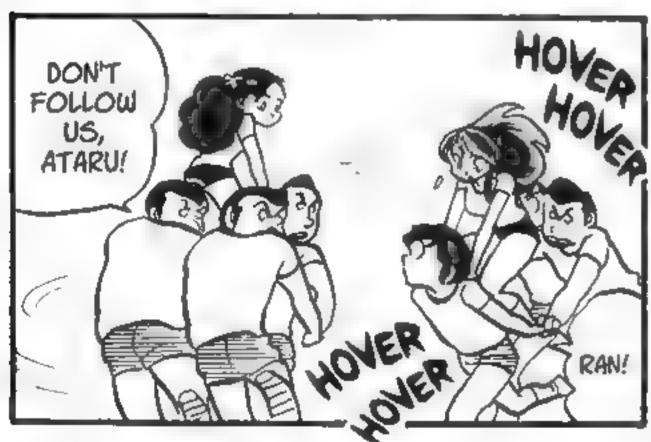
















## CHAPTER 20: CULTURAL FESTIVAL CLOSE CALL











































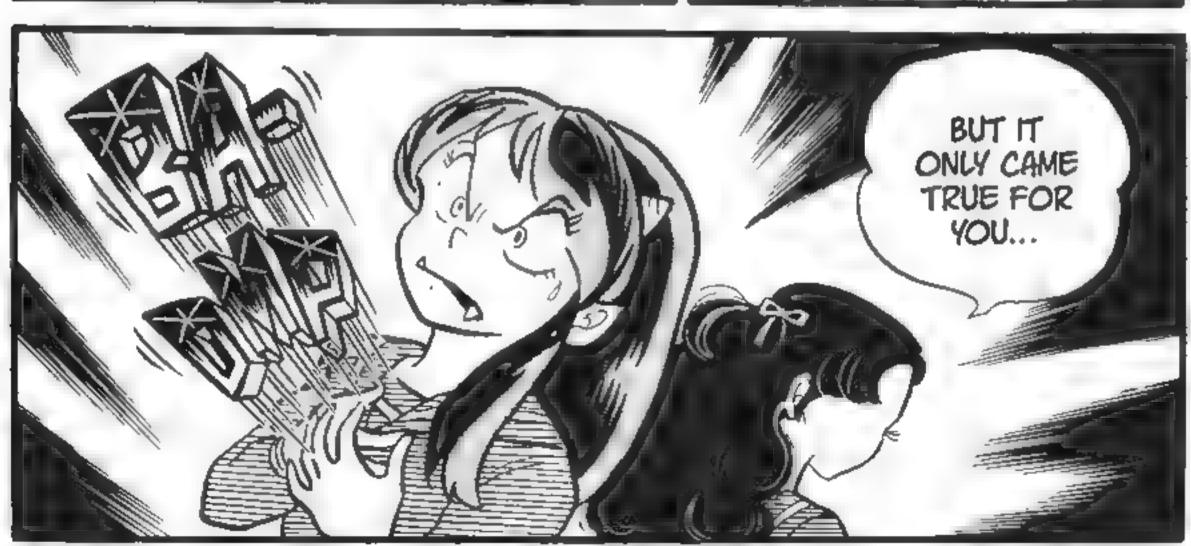




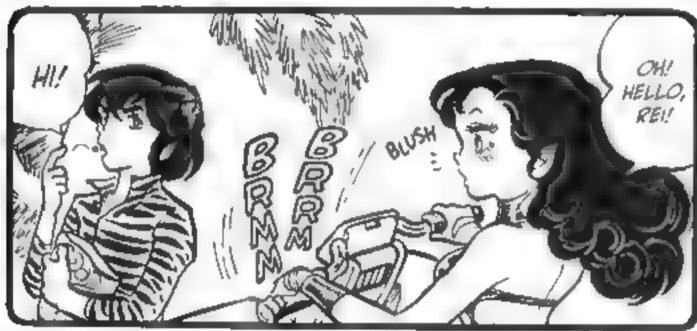




































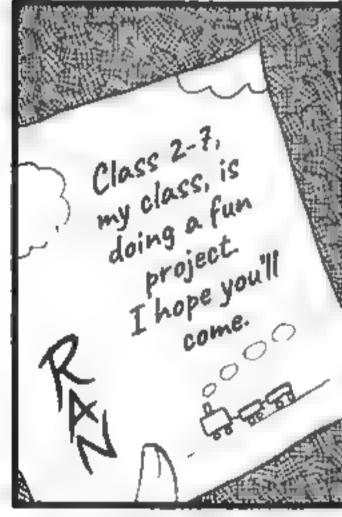










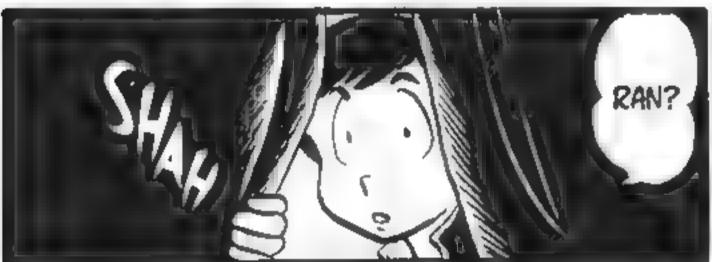






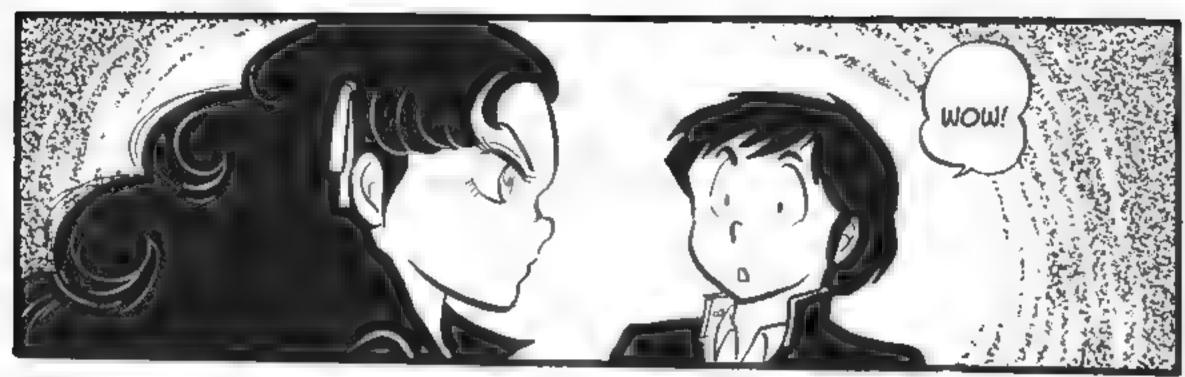




















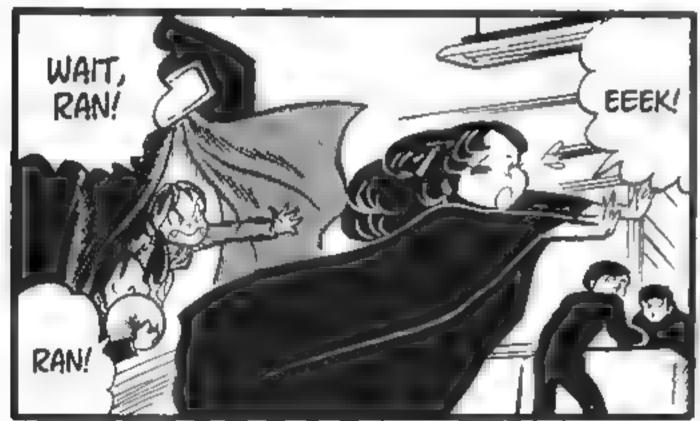




















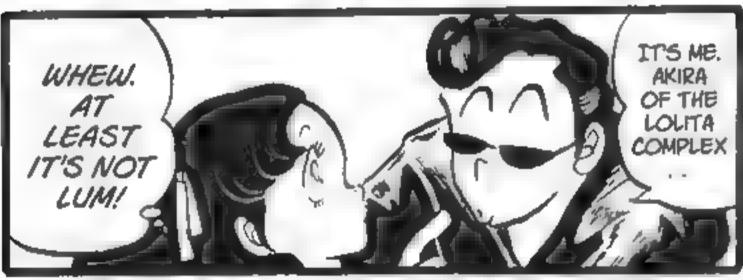






























## CHAPTER 218 DRAWA FESTIVAL CLOSE CALL







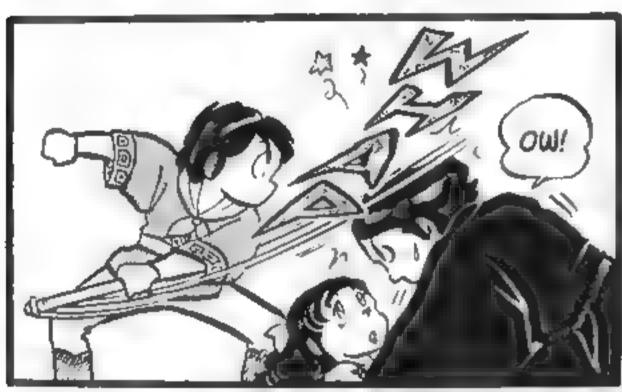






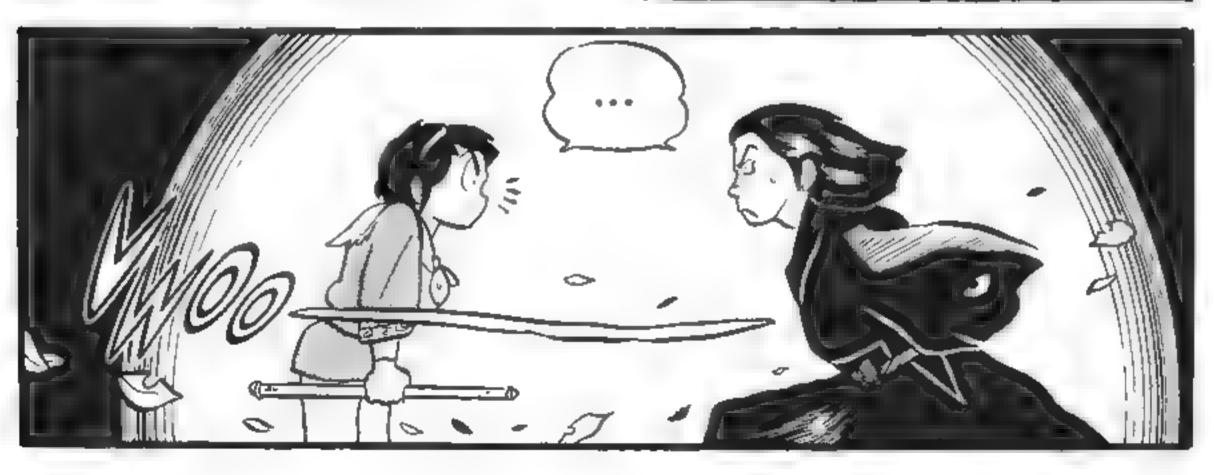








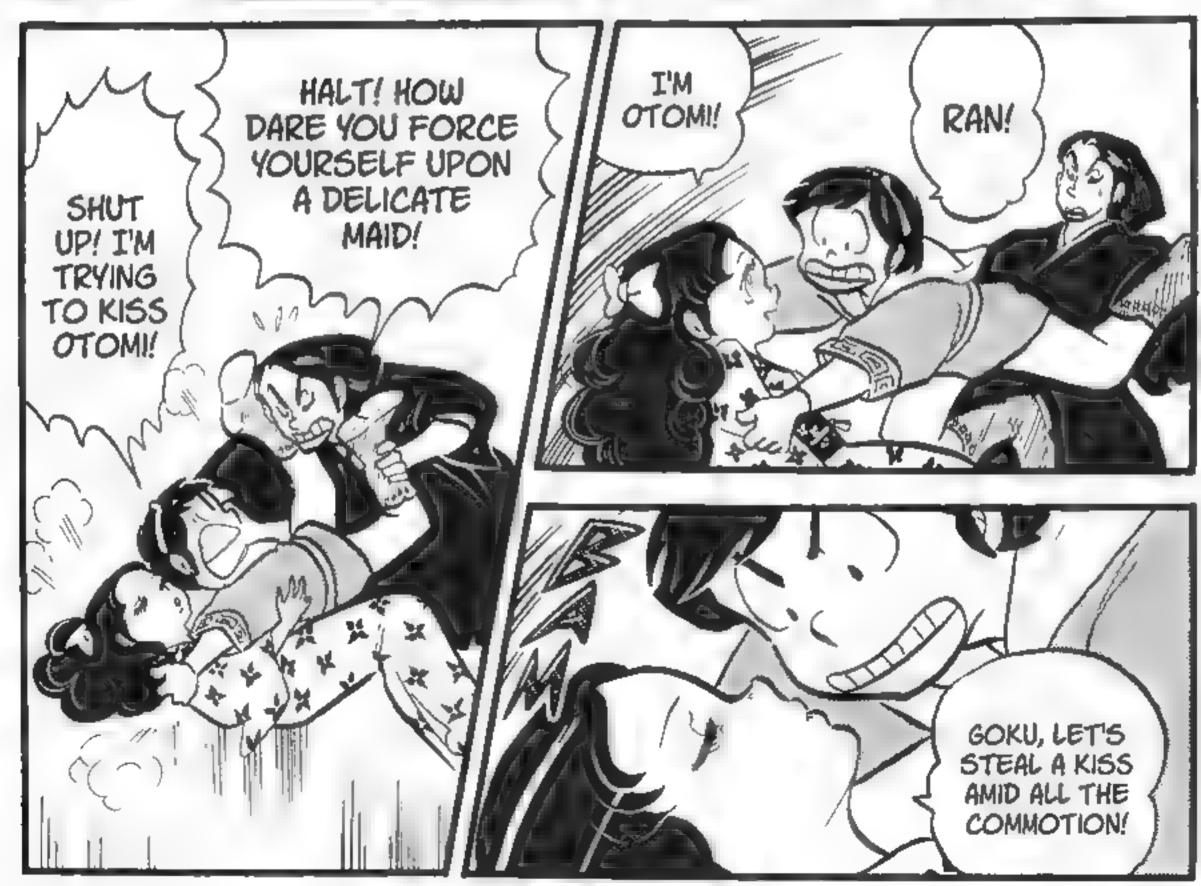














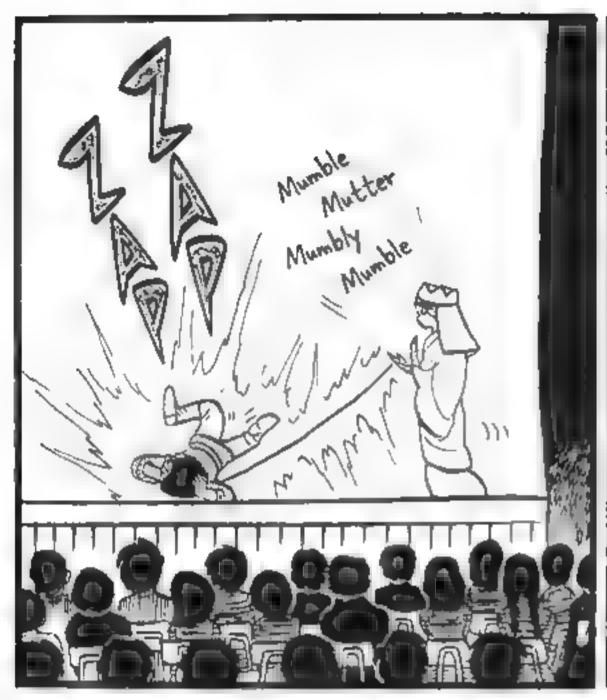
























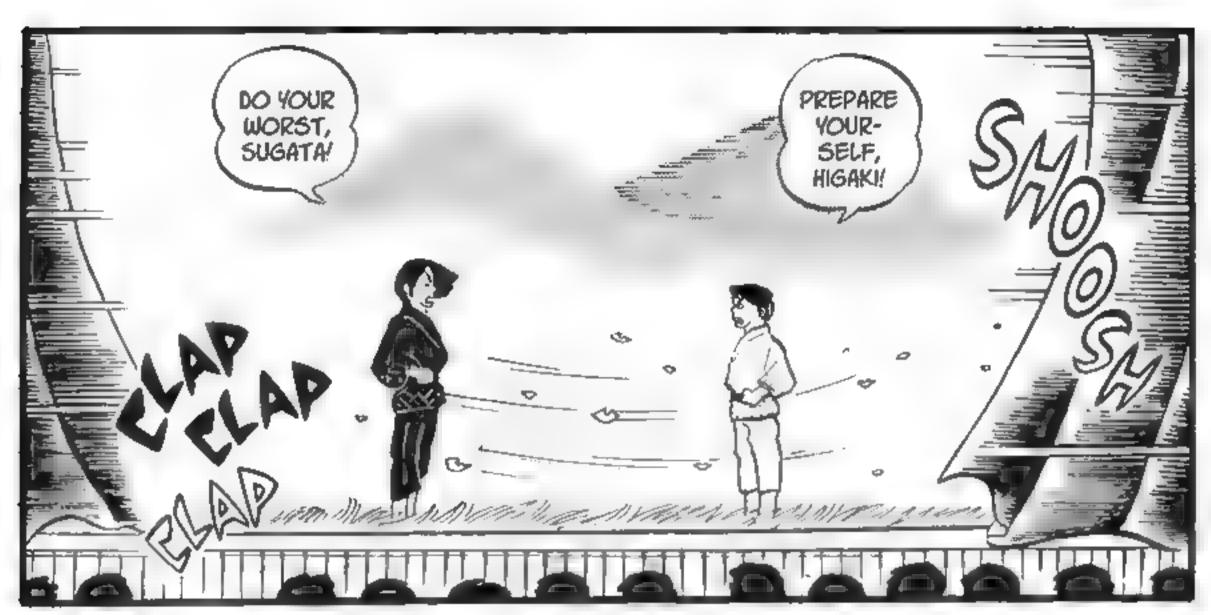






















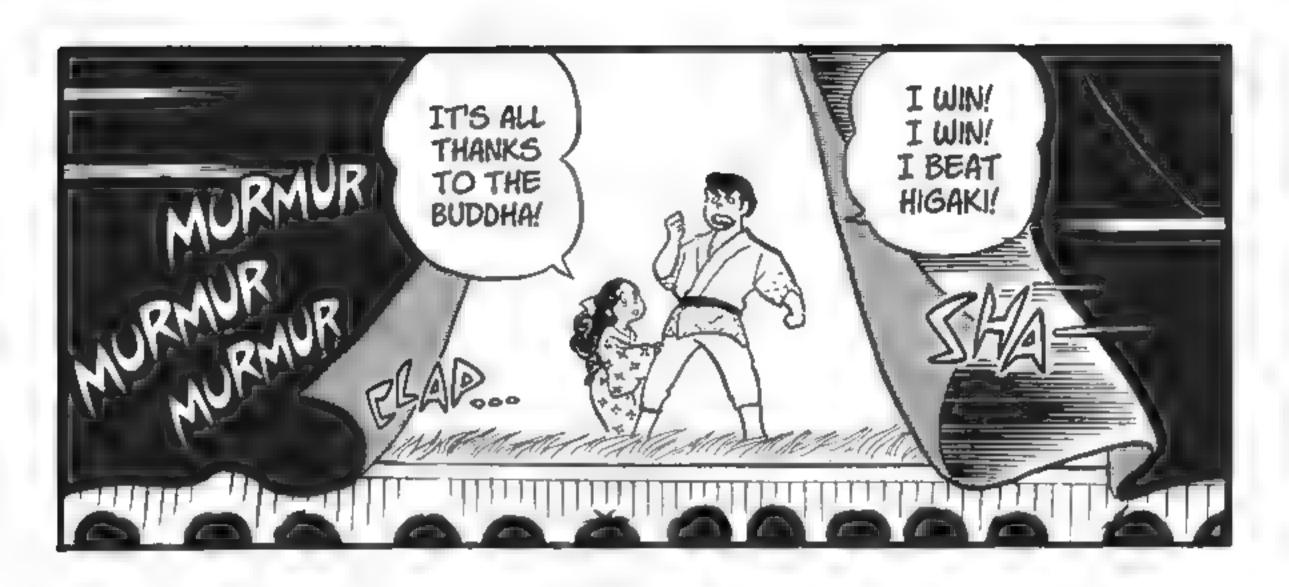






















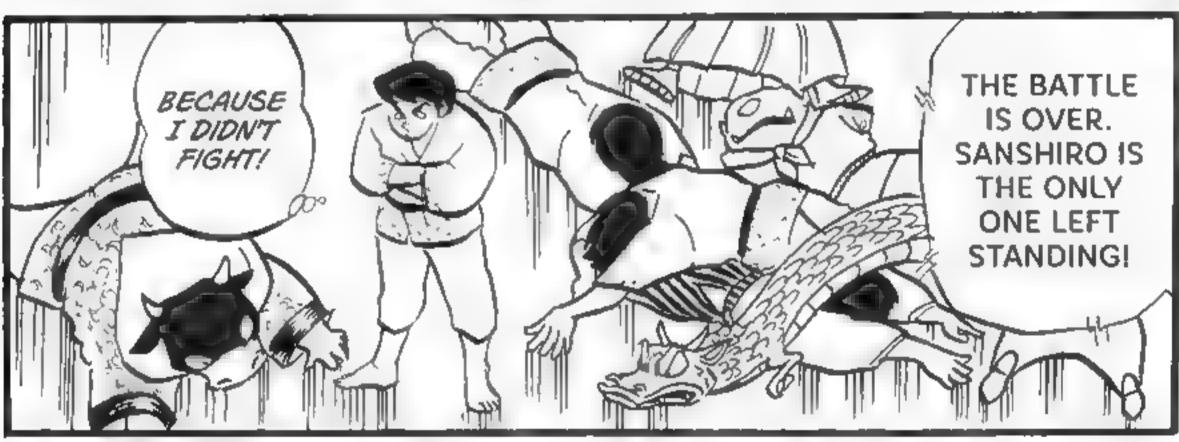










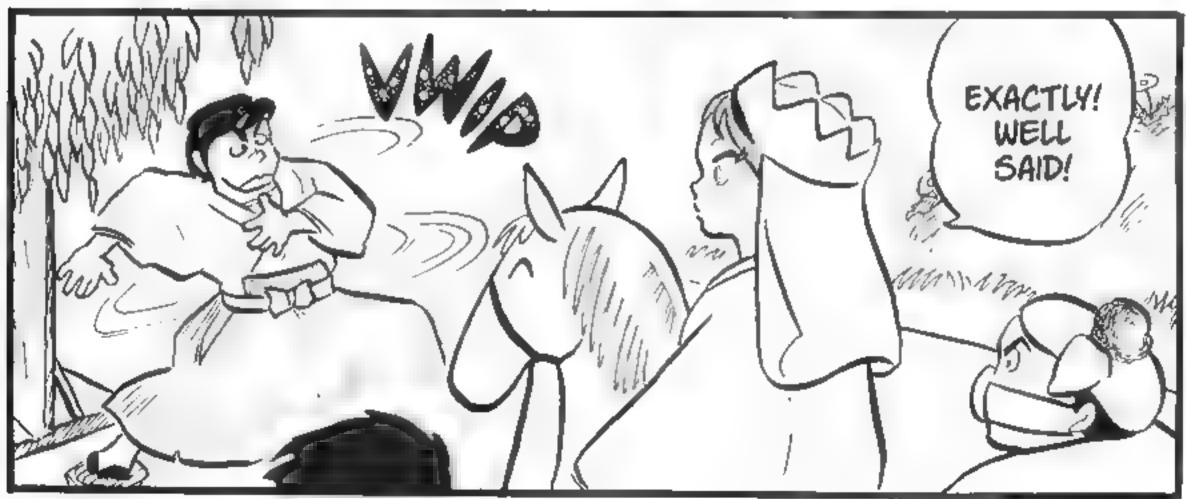










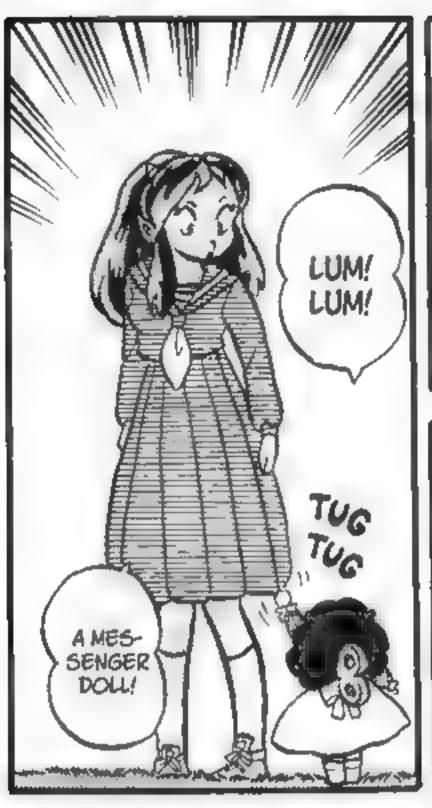






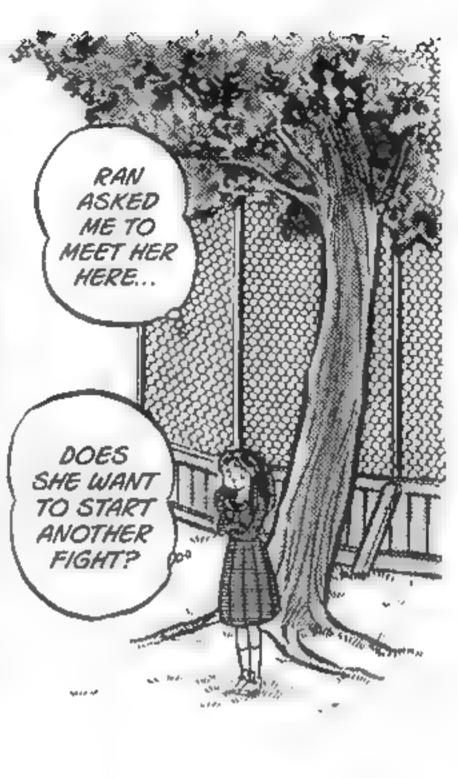
## CHAPTER 228 FAREWELL PARTY CLOSE CALL











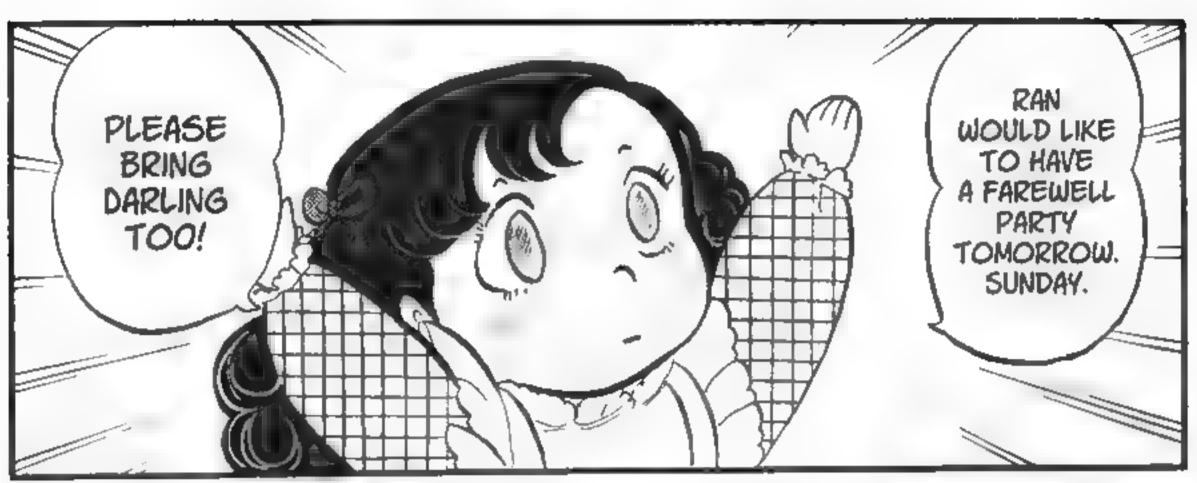


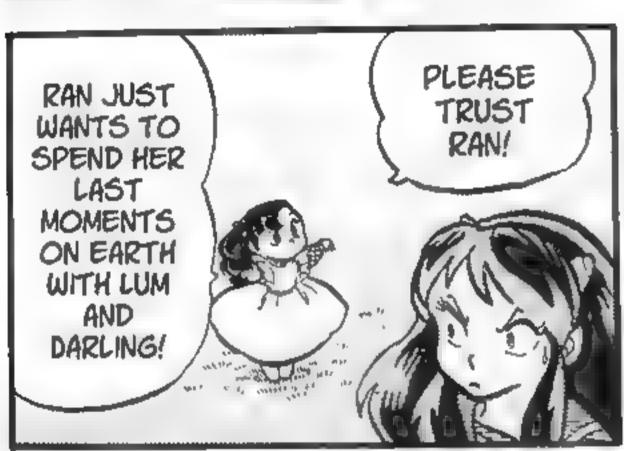








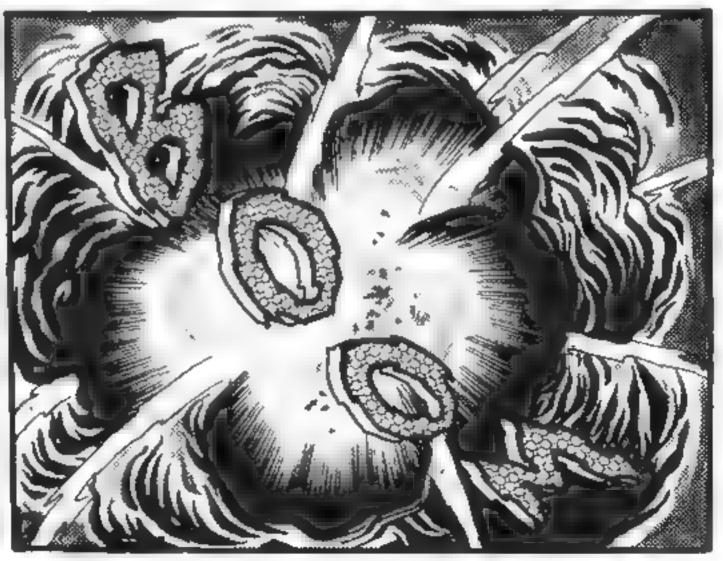




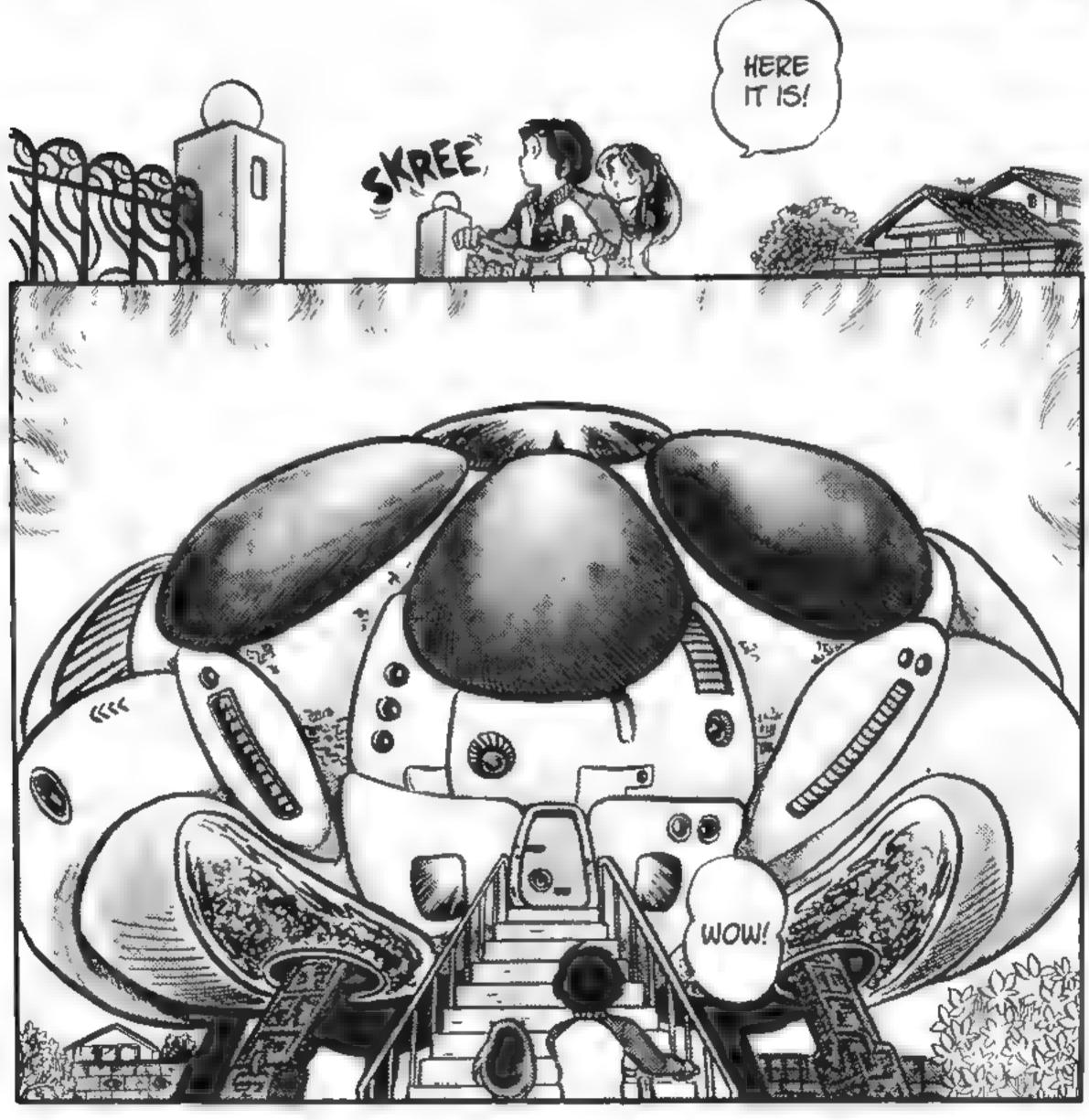


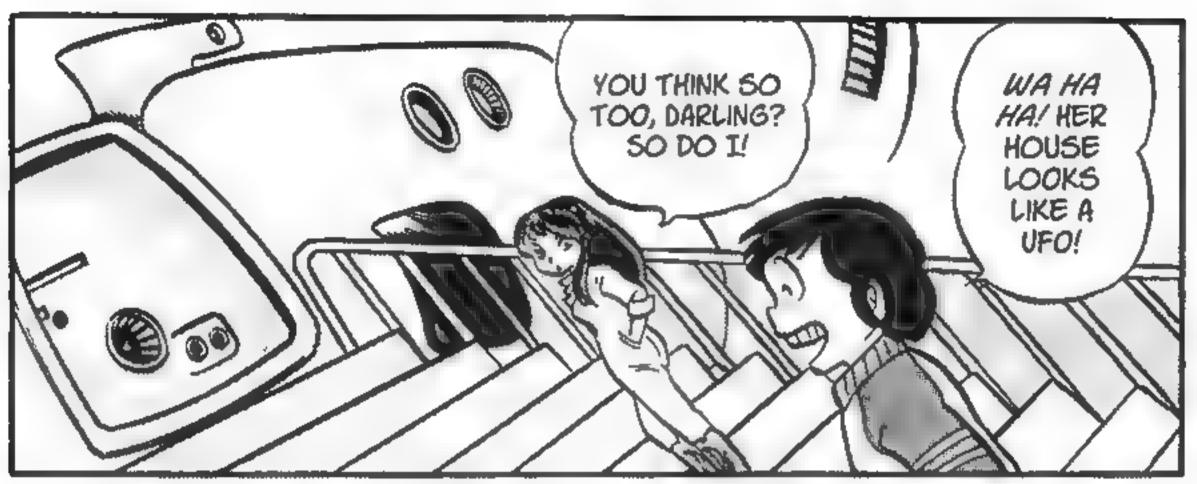












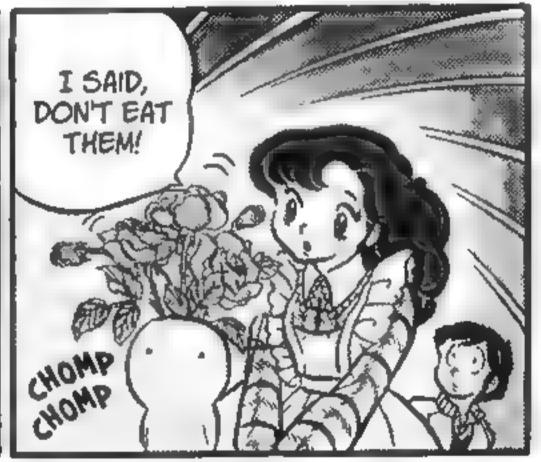
























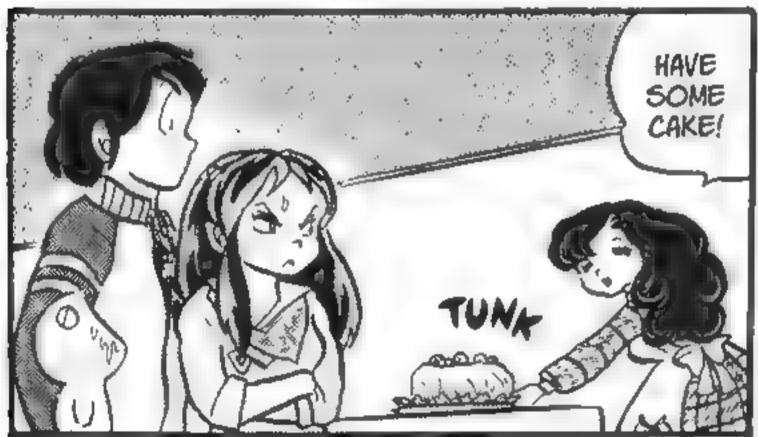


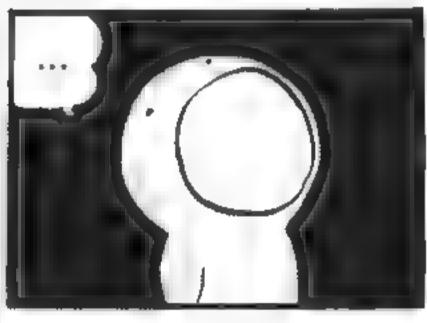










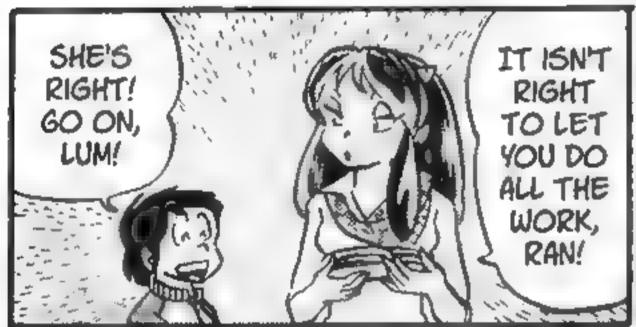


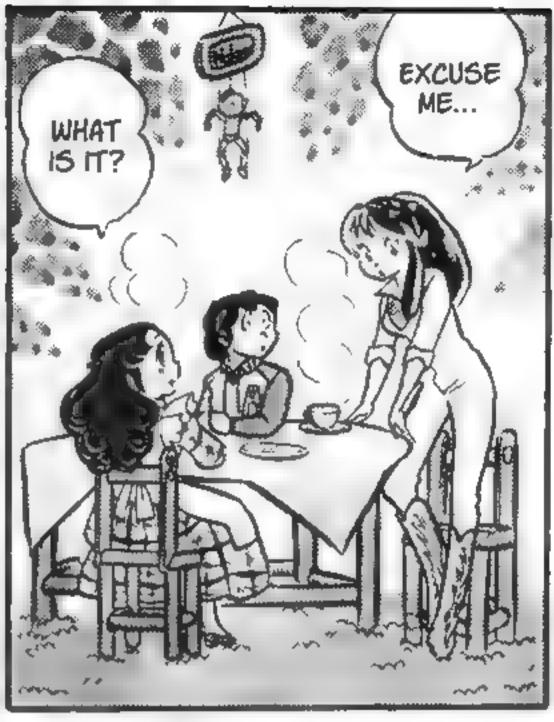






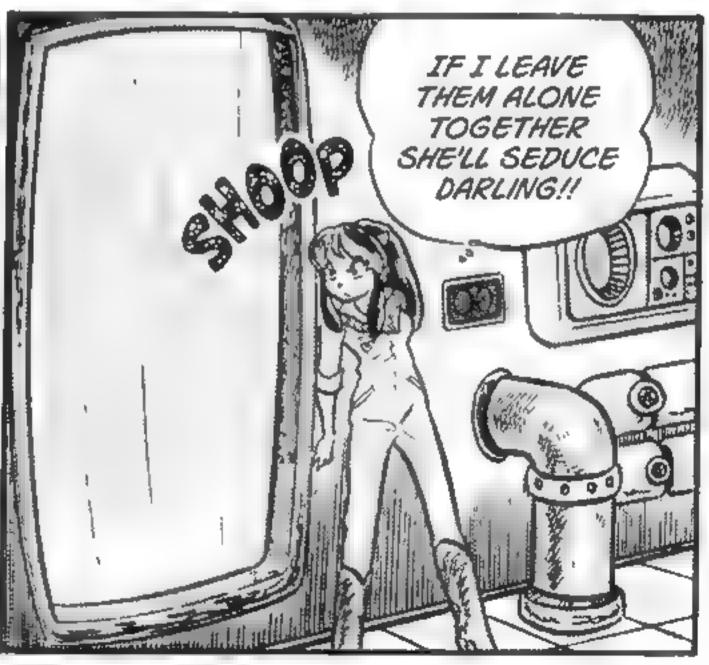




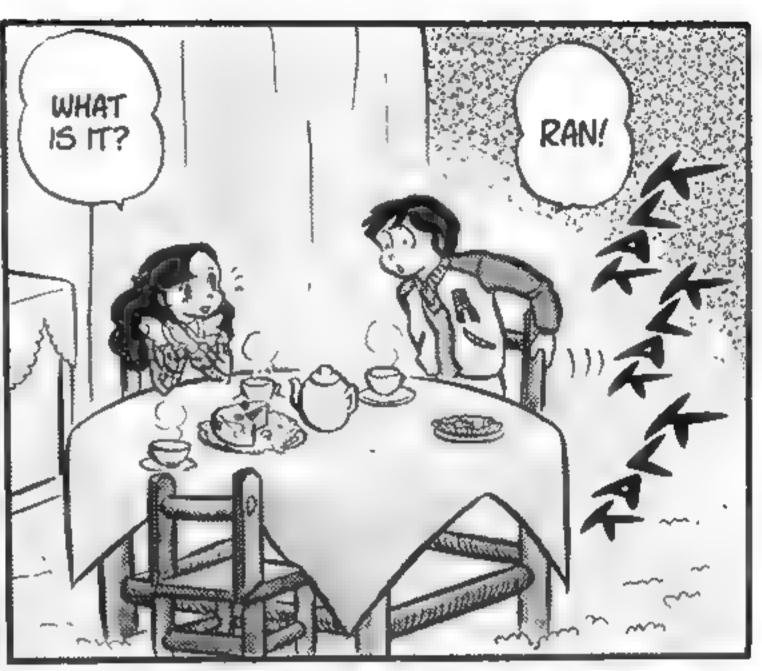


























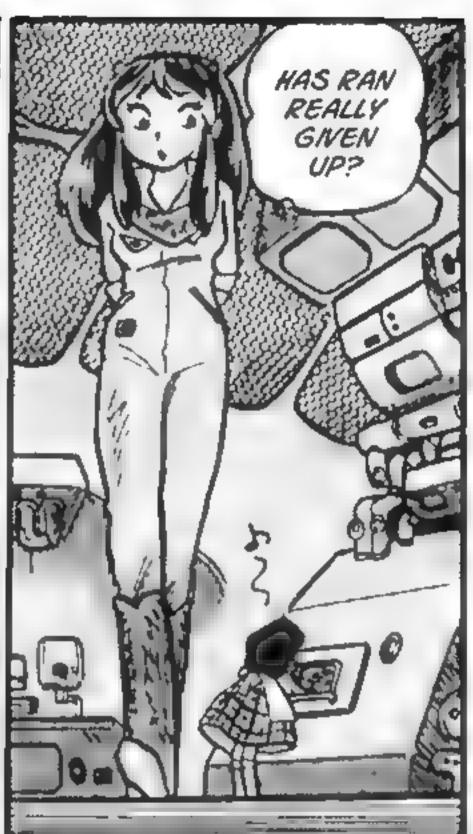






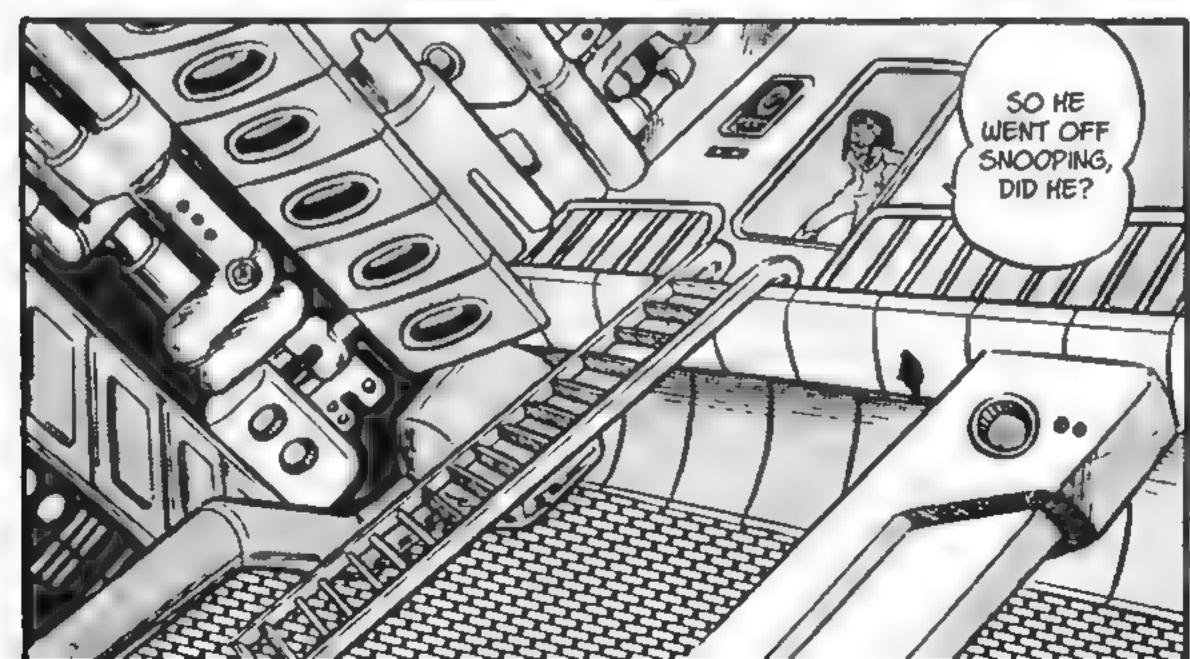


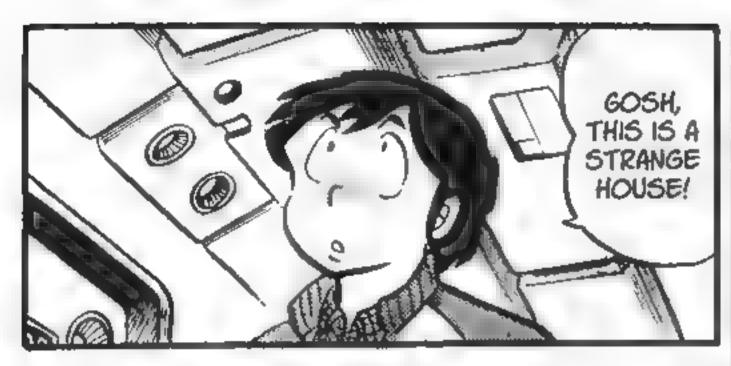










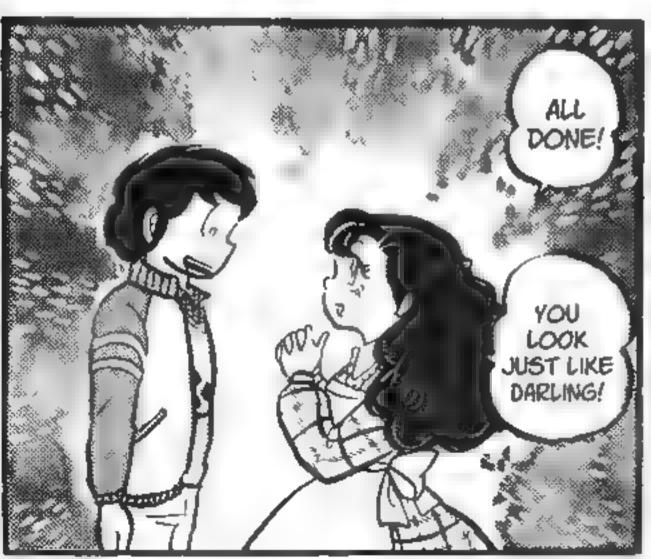












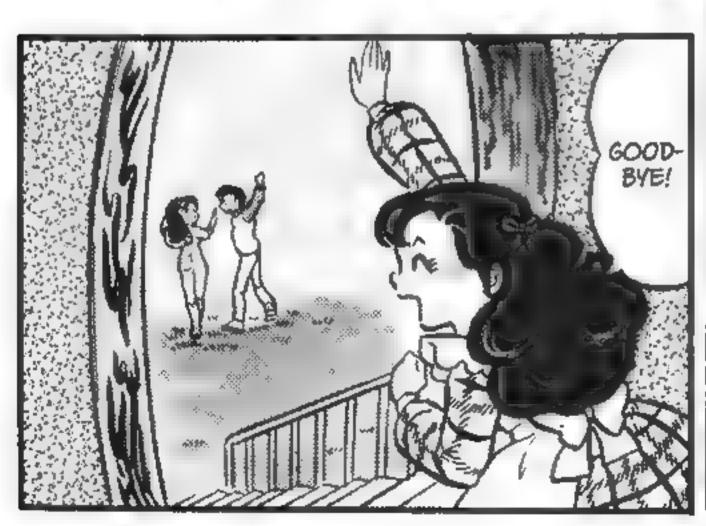






























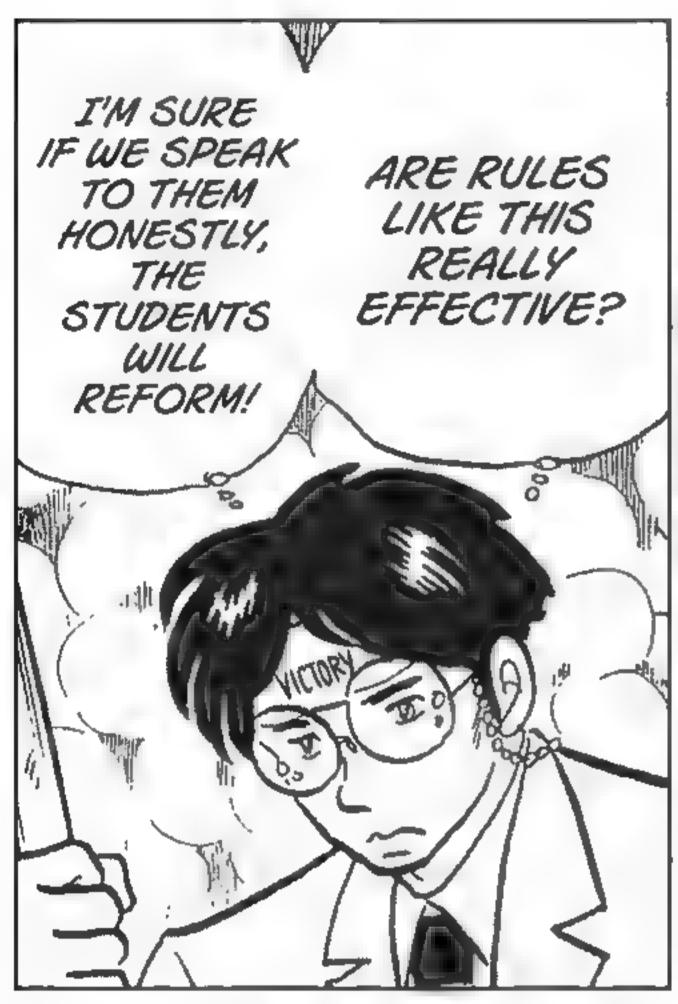


#### URUSEI YATSURA \* DATA FILE 06

## Get Educated with Hanawa Sensei! Through Friendship and Give-and-Take!

Teachers have to be tough at Tomobiki High with its high concentration of problem students, but don't underestimate this mild-mannered young teacher! He deserves the students' utmost veneration!





▲ The young teacher struggles with the snack ban (volume 6, chapter 4 "The Great Afterschool Snack Battle")

# No Bad Kids, Only Bad Education (1) A Teacher Who Doesn't Wall Out Students

Hanawa Sensei is a passionate teacher, and his face is full of hope as he arrives at Tomobiki High. He murmurs, "Starting today, I'm a teacher here! It's like a dream!" Still, with a baby face that instills little respect from students, Hanawa Sensei is not the energetic-educational-association type, he's the sincere-and-earnest-dreamer type who internally pledges solemnly never to hurt a student's feelings.

Hanawa Sensei often misses his mark, but he isn't annoying. He shouts,

"Oh, sweet youth!" at the cloudy sky, proclaiming autumn the season of sports, urging, "It's the perfect season to taste the exhibitantion of working up a good sweat!" The students may poke fun at him, but they harbor a genuine fondness for their sweet-natured teacher.

When Lum and Ataru join the school volleyball teams, the losers on the boys' team go about their business as usual, completely ignoring Hanawa Sensei's presence in their midst. Indeed, it is doubtful whether there is another teacher in all of Japan whose presence evokes so little acknowledgement from his students. No matter how well-liked a teacher is, students normally exercise some degree of discretion when a teacher is present.

Seen from a positive perspective, Hanawa Sensei blends in quickly with the students almost immediately after his arrival at the school. Many teachers have a hard time blending in even after putting in a fair bit of effort, so the fact that it comes effortlessly to Hanawa Sensei might suggest a certain kind of genius. Perhaps Hanawa Sensei is a born educator, possessed of innate talents!



▲ Hanawa Sensei teaches his poorly behaved class "Song of the Children" by Yamanoue Okura, a song about the love of children (volume 5, chapter 2 "Ms. Swallow and Ms. Penguin")



### No Bad Kitls Only Bard Education 3 Remember My Name

Of course, there are other teachers at Tomobiki High besides Hanawa Sensei and Hot Spring Emblem Sensei. Aside from the popular principal, there is also the gym teacher (volume 6, chapter 13 "Tales of a Wandering Snowman"), the Home Ec teacher (volume 2, chapter 12 "Who's That Baby?") and the art teacher (volume 8, chapter 8 "Art Is a Sport"). Sakura Sensei is the school nurse.

In a scene right out of a TV sitcom, the teachers sit around the staff room enjoying a friendly cup of tea (volume 4, chapter 20 "Love and School Violence"). Of all the teachers present, Hanawa Sensei is the only one whom we know by name (volume 3, chapter 12 "Private Lesson").

Hot Spring Emblem Sensei is so nicknamed presumably by his pupils because of the hot spring emblems on his suit. However, Hanawa Sensei is given the opportunity to introduce himself by name when he first appears in the classroom.

And of course, the students address Hanawa Sensei by name, not just as Sensei as they do other teachers. Natsuko, the star of the girls volleyball team inquires, scowling, "What's wrong, Hanawa Sensei? You look pale!" U P U S F I Y A T S U P A

▶ Even Ataru frequently uses polite grammar when addressing Hanawa Sensei but not Hot Spring Emblem Sensei...perhaps betraying his affection for the former?! (volume 5, chapter 2 "Ms. Swallow and Ms. Penguin")



For these reasons alone, Hanawa Sensei is clearly a special teacher at Tomobiki High.

Moreover, Hanawa Sensei's presence also makes the other teachers at Tomobiki High more visible This is because when Hanawa Sensei is hired and Lum matriculates, more of the scenes take place in the classrooms of Tomobiki High. The principal and Hot Spring Emblem may think they are big shots, but they owe their limelight to Hanawa Sensei.

No Bad Kids, Only Bad Education 3

Any Other Career Would

Be Unthinkable



◄ You can't have a fun school story
without this kind of character! (volume 8,
chapter 21 "So Long, Hot Spring Emblem")

When Hanawa Sensei first comes to Tomobiki High, he muses to himself, "It's been a long road... Half a year unemployed. At one point I thought I'd never make it as a teacher." He chuckles softly, unable to conceal his glee. To be hired at a private high school, a potential teacher might have to wait six months or more for a teaching post to open up. However, Tomobiki High is a public school, and the teachers are employed by the municipality. Normally, they would be part of the regular hiring cycle, so it's hard to imagine circumstances requiring one to wait six months for a post. How do we explain Hanawa Sensei's predicament?

There are three possible explanations One is that Hanawa Sensei is a substitute teacher who was hired on half a year late due to a teacher at Tomobiki High taking maternity leave or the like. Conversely, Hanawa Sensei might have had a medical condition of his own—an injury or illness—that prevented him from being hired at the normal time.

The most plausible theory is that municipal budgetary limitations prevented him from being hired on schedule. You might question whether such things really happen, but remember that he has some strong karma (as evidenced by his assignment to teach class 2-4—this is the classroom of Ataru Moroboshi, who is possessed of the worst luck of any human on Earth). Hanawa Sensei might even be afflicted with some kind of curse.



▲ With Hot Spring Emblem coming to the fore in disciplinary matters, Hanawa Sensei gradually recedes into the background (volume 5, chapter 5 "Revenge of the Protozoa")

In any case, Hanawa Sensei has overcome the miserable predicament of being unemployed for half a year and achieved his longed-for goal of becoming a teacher. A normal person might get discouraged in such a situation and go looking for another career, but this is part of Hanawa Sensei's greatness.

We have now considered Hanawa Sensei's greatness, but unfortunately, he only appears here and there in the latter half of the series. It seems unlikely that he's quit; more likely than not, he's laying low at school, unable to keep up with the shenanigans of his highly unique students. Perhaps he is merely hiding meekly in the shadow of Hot Spring Emblem (who becomes a strict enforcer of rules) as he continues to interact quietly with his pupils.

Knowing Hanawa Sensei's special genius, it's possible that he's merely faded into the obscurity of the student body for the latter reason.

The Variety of

We counted

them up!

### Escaping from Reality? A Broad Range, from Drag to the Divine!

Ataru is not alone among the characters of Urusei Yatsura in wearing special outfits. In this article, we specifically counted up the times Ataru himself dresses up in a costume to play a character. For that reason, we did not count scenes out of the Edo or Heian historical periods (which seem a divergence from the central story) or disguises that he appears in as a sort of gag (during dream sequences and such). The fact that there are still 16 occasions is proof that Tomobiki High is a school that is unusually rich with events.

#### A True Drama Freak!



▲ Ataru drinks a drama potion that turns him into Kin (volume 11, chapter 16 "A Day in the Life of Kin the Playboy")

Of these, ten are characters he plays during school events: a woman (volume 3, chapter 5 "The Red-Cloaked Phantom"), a teacher (volume 4, chapter 20 "Love and School Violence"), Son Goku (volume 3, chapter 21 "Drama Festival Close Call"), a god from the legend of Amano Iwato (volume 6, chapter 3 "Sun Goddess Banquet"), Zenigata Heiji (volume 6, chapter 11 "It's a Year-End Party!"), Playboy Kin (volume 11, chapter

**BUAMBA** 

16 "A Day in the Life of Kin the Playboy"), a rice merchant and a wild dog

(volume 13, chapter 15 "Woman Vs. Woman Showdown: Part 3"), a monster (volume 14, chapter 1 "Foxes' Wedding"), and a bullfighter (chapter 15, chapter 6 "Red Shoes of Passion"). In general, he embraces these opportunities enthusiastically, sometimes even directing the play himself.

Remember, Ataru is prone to frequent calamities and misfortune. While he may seem totally oblivious and happy-go-lucky, perhaps his penchant for acting reflects a deep-seated desire to escape from reality.



▲ Ataru improvises. Is he a genius? (volume 15, chapter 6 "Red Shoes of Passion")

Total Number of Times Ataru Wears Costumes......16
Costumes That Ataru Wears

A karasu tengu, a poor wooden swordsman, a feudal lord, a woman, Son Goku, a teacher, a whacchamacallit spirit, god from the legend of Amano Iwato, Zenigata Heiji, Romeo, Kin the Playboy

Of these, the number of costumes Ataru proactively chooses ......14

Author: Kyoko Sugimori Concept: Masatake Sugimori

### Urusei Yatsura



#### Rumiko Takahashi



The spotlight on Rumiko Takahashi's career began in 1978 when she won an honorable mention in Shogakukan's prestigious New Comic Artist Contest for *Those Selfish Aliens*. Later that same year, her boy-meets-alien comedy series, *Urusei Yatsura*, was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Sunday*. This phenomenally successful manga series was adapted into anime format and spawned a TV series and half a dozen theatrical-release movies, all incredibly popular in their own right. Takahashi followed up the success of her debut series with one blockbuster hit after another—*Maison Ikkoku* ran from 1980 to 1987, *Ranma 1/2* from 1987 to 1996, and *Inuyasha* from 1996 to 2008. Other notable works include *Mermaid Saga*, *Rumic Theater*, and *One-Pound Gospel*.

Takahashi was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2019, she won the Grand Prix at FIDB Angoulême. She won the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award twice in her career, once for Urusei Yatsura in 1981 and the second time for Inuyasha in 2002. Her series have sold over 200 million copies worldwide as of March 2017. A majority of the Takahashi canon has been adapted into other media such as anime, live-action TV series, and film. Takahashi's manga, as well as the other formats her work has been adapted into, have continued to delight generations of fans around the world. Distinguished by her wonderfully endearing characters, Takahashi's work adeptly incorporates a wide variety of elements such as comedy, romance, fantasy, and martial arts. While her series are difficult to pin down into one simple genre, the signature style she has created has come to be known as the "Rumic World." Rumiko Takahashi is an artist who truly represents the very best from the world of manga. Her current series RIN-NE is available in North America from VIZ Media.



#### **URUSEI YATSURA**

VIZ Signature Edition Vol. 3

STORY AND ART BY RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

URUSEI YATSURA [SHINSOBAN] Vol.5, 6 by Rumiko TAKAHASHI

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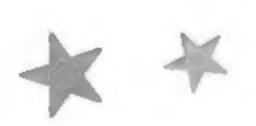
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